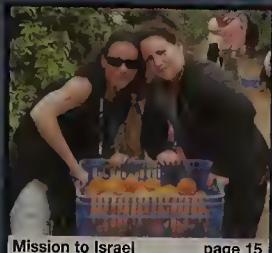


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Mission to Israel page 15

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The Hon. Peter Milliken, speaker of the House of Commons (second from left), with (from left to right) Rabbi Yonah Burr, Winston Spencer-Churchill, On Cohen and Rabbi Binyomin Holland in front of the late Winston Churchill's picture in the speaker's office. Spencer-Churchill was in the city to give Kotel of Ottawa's annual keynote speech. Story on page 8. (Photo: courtesy Kotel)

Deal gives CJC co-presidents for first time ever

By Barry Fishman

The battle for president of the Canadian Jewish Congress is over. For the first time in its history CJC will have co-presidents.

Outgoing CJC President Ed Morgan announced Sylvain Abitbol and Rabbi Reuven Bulka will jointly seek the co-presidency of the Canadian Jewish Congress at its upcoming plenary, to be held in Ottawa on Sunday, June 17.

"We realized that it wasn't in the organization's best interest to be competing against each other," Rabbi Bulka told the *Bulletin* in an interview from Israel. "It would be better for us to work together to strengthen the CJC."

Rabbi Bulka said he entered the race because he was worried new bylaws that will be voted on by delegates at the upcoming Plenary Assembly could drastically change the way CJC does its advocacy work.

"I wanted to make sure Congress would continue to be the voice of the people and the Jewish communities would always have access to it," he said.

With this new deal, the rabbi's concerns have been addressed.

"The new bylaw gives us the flexibility to meet the advocacy challenges facing the Jewish community in the future," he said.

Abitbol agrees.

(Continued on page 2)

From generation to generation: Roger Greenberg follows in father's footsteps

By Cynthia Nyman Engel

Many an eye will mist over when Roger Greenberg steps forward to accept the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award at the June 6 Annual General Meeting of the Ottawa Jewish community.

The 2007 recipient of the coveted award is the son of the late, revered community leader Gilbert Greenberg, who died in 1980, his

dream of a single, unified Jewish Community Campus unfulfilled. But, in 1994, when community leaders gauged the time had come to launch the project, Roger Greenberg picked up the torch and, as chair of the Community Capital Campaign, carried his father's dream to reality.

In recognition of his tireless, ongoing commitment to the Ottawa Jewish community in this and other

significant areas, Roger Greenberg has been named the 2007 Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award winner.

The award is the highest tribute the Ottawa Jewish community can bestow on an individual for exceptional service over the course of many years. Initiated in 1980, it bears the name of the late past president Gilbert Greenberg, who exemplified the qualities of leadership the

award seeks to recognize each year.

Roger chuckles as he remembers what he calls "that fateful luncheon" in 1994.

"They hemmed me in," he smiles. "Stephen Victor, Stephen Greenberg, Bernie Dolansky, my cousin Lawrence Greenberg, and [then-Vaad executive director] Stan Urman. They hemmed me in and wouldn't let me out until I agreed to

(Continued on page 2)



Roger Greenberg

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Bulka, Abitbol collaboration is win-win

(Continued from page 1)

"By removing a tangled web of well-intended but outdated and sometimes suffocating bureaucracy, the passage of Bylaw 67 will allow CJC to succeed in its primary focus: effective advocacy on behalf of the Jewish community on all issues affecting us as proud Canadians," he noted in a CJC press release.

The new, larger executive will consist of candidates from both slates who have a plethora of governance and advocacy experience.

The plan put forward is for the slate of officers nominated by CJC and those running with Rabbi Bulka to merge, creating three new regional vice-president officer positions to reflect the interests of Jewish communities across Canada.

"It will be a mixture of new people working with old Congress people for the good of the community," the rabbi said.

Rabbi Bulka said he is excited about sharing the CJC presidency with Sylvain Abitbol and stressed the race was never personal.

"I expect it to be a very good partnership," he said. "We know each other's strengths and both of us are committed to making it work. We plan to spend time together prior to the plenary to plan our strategies for the next two years."

He also credited outgoing Ottawa Federation Chair Ron Prehogan with helping to broker the deal.

"The two parties came to believe that it was better off working together on Congress issues than working apart," said Prehogan. "Rabbi Bulka and Sylvain are not only in agreement over it but they are delighted with the agreement."

It is a win-win situation for the organization.

"Congress will have the benefit of the collected wisdom of all the individuals moving forward, instead of

having winners and losers," Prehogan said.

At a recent meeting, Prehogan said he was impressed with how well the two men got along.

"Even though they haven't been elected yet, they are already working together in a spirit of collaboration. They have already talked about what their respective roles will be, among other things. This is real stuff. I witnessed this myself last week when I was involved in the discussions," Prehogan said.

Barbara Farber, soon to be president of the United Israel Appeal Federation of Canada (UIAFC) is delighted with the agreement.

"Both men have great strengths in different areas that will benefit the organization," she said. "Congress will be served very well by Rabbi Bulka and Sylvain Abitbol co-presidency."

The Canadian Jewish Congress 28th Plenary Assembly will take place June 17 at Agudath Israel Synagogue, 1400 Coldrey Avenue in Ottawa.



Rabbi Reuven Bulka



Sylvain Abitbol

Greenberg committed to community

(Continued from page 1)

chair the Community Capital Campaign."

Using the power of persuasion, the forceful five convinced Roger he was the right - and only - person to oversee what, unquestionably, would be a Herculean task.

"Roger was the logical choice to chair the fundraising effort to establish the campus as he would be fulfilling the dream of his father, Gilbert Greenberg, of blessed memory," says Stephen Victor.

"Roger is that rare, great man who combines in his persona keen intelligence, common sense, business acumen, high integrity, and an overwhelming sense of responsibility and commitment to the Jewish and gen-

eral communities," he says.

Roger was the driving force behind the success of the Community Capital Campaign and, when all was said and done, more than \$30 million was raised to enable the building of the Jewish Community Campus. Roger spent countless hours in the mid and late 1990s organizing and formulating the campaign, canvassing hundreds of donors, speaking about the importance of the campaign and ensuring the donations were collected.

Today, as a result of his resolute dedication, the Ottawa Jewish community operates from a Jewish Community Campus that houses the Jewish community centre, an educational facility, a home for the aged and myriad Jewish communal organizations. His vast experience and knowledge was invaluable in constructing and developing the buildings and agencies now forming part of the campus.

Further, in order to ensure the proper establishment and functioning of the new Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Roger sat on the SJCC board for several years, lending his tremendous expertise and intelligence to create a stellar new facility.

Once the Community Capital Campaign was a *fait accompli*, Roger continued to give selflessly of his time, energy and considerable expertise to make the Ottawa Jewish community the best it can be.

Roger has used his talents

as a top fundraiser for the Federation's Annual Campaign, serving as chair of the Top Donors Division. He still canvasses top donors. He is a member of the steering committee of the Community Endowment Campaign and is singularly responsible for obtaining many of the significant gifts. He also used his substantial connections in the general community to contribute to the unqualified successes of two major Jewish National Fund Negev Dinners, serving as dinner chair for both.

He has lent his extensive financial experience to the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation as a board member and member of the executive and is the incoming chair. He is also deeply involved with creating a new agency to take over Ottawa's Jewish cemeteries, which, he predicts, "will have a positive impact on the community."

Roger gives generously of his time, energy and expertise to countless worthy causes in the general community as well. At the tip of that enormous iceberg are Autism Ontario, Ottawa Chapter; the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre; the Ottawa Hospital Foundation Board; and the

Community Foundation of Ottawa.

"If I were to provide you with the entire list of his involvement, we'd be on the phone for hours," says his executive assistant, Anne Love. "He really is an inspiration to work for."

"On the side, I run a reasonably sized family business," the chairman and CEO of Minto Developments Inc. grins.

Roger, 51, is the third of six children born to the late Bess and Gilbert Greenberg.

"They were terrific parents and very active in the Ottawa Jewish community," he says.

How does he feel about being chosen to receive the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award?

"Tremendously proud," says Roger. "It's one thing to be getting it at all and, of course, it is elevated to an entirely different level since it is allied with my father."

He is also proud to be adding his name to previous Greenberg family recipients: his late uncles Irving and Lorry, and his late cousin, Lawrence.

Roger and his wife Cindy Feingold are the parents of three children, Nicholas, 15, Jenna, 15 and Jamie, 14.

Two more awards

Two other community awards will be presented at the Federation AGM on Wednesday, June 6.

Sam Ages will receive the Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award. His profile is on page 9.

Mitch Miller will receive the Freiman Family Young Leadership Award. See his profile on page 10.

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Tuesday, May 29

Yiddish song workshop led by musician and teacher Janie Resnitz
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Thursday, May 31

Yiddish film screening (English subtitles) *Green Fields/Grüne felder*
2:00-4:00 pm at Simard Hall 224, 60 University Private (corner Laurier),
University of Ottawa.

Tuesday, June 5

Yiddish film screening (English subtitles) *Mamele*
2:00-4:00 pm at Simard Hall 224, 60 University Private (corner Laurier),
University of Ottawa.

Thursday, June 7

Lecture on Yiddish theatre by Beth Kaplan, author of *Finding the Jewish Shakespeare:
The Life and Legacy of Jacob Gordin*, 7:30 pm,
Soloway Jewish Community Centre, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

Tuesday, June 12

Yiddish student performance and program graduation.
10:00 am – noon, at Simard Hall 125, 60 University Private (corner Laurier),
University of Ottawa. Please RSVP for this event by Thursday, June 7
at www.president.uottawa.ca, or by calling 613-562-5800 x 2955

For more details on these events,
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62 years later, veterans again battling hatred

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal
researcher to speak
at War Vets luncheon
Sunday, June 10



Michael Ettedgui

By Alexander Baker
They are often called
"historical revisionists,"
among the titles fit to print,
and they spend their lives
arguing a point of view that
is obviously wrong. As a
result, they are usually disre-
garded – troublemakers and
charlatans, they are labelled.

Certainly, those who
deny the Holocaust must
have thick skin. They are
branded anti-Semites, fools
swimming against the tide,
conspiracy theorists who
bend the facts to fit a twist-
ed world view.

However, rarely are
Holocaust deniers seen as
dangerous, anti-Semitic
though they may be. In the
Western world, where free-
dom of speech is a basic
human right and a funda-
mental element of democra-
cy, it is assumed revisionists
will be exposed as the
frauds and fools they are for
trying to argue against docu-
mented history.

Therein lies the danger,
says Michael Ettedgui of
the Friends of Simon
Wiesenthal Center. Coming
to Ottawa in June for a talk
sponsored by the Ottawa
Post, Jewish War Veterans
of Canada, Ettedgui will
discuss the insidious nature
of Holocaust denial and the
threat it truly is.

"Today, we are seeing the
rise of Holocaust denial
around the world and how
different nations are dealing
with it," says the 25-year-

old researcher and Toronto
native.

Citing a German initiative
in January 2007 to create a
European Union-wide ban on
Holocaust denial and Nazi
symbols, Ettedgui notes,
"The countries most affected
[by the Holocaust] are taking
the most vigorous action to
ban anti-Semitism."

Canada, on the other
hand, has hate-speech laws
on the books already and the
Conservative government
has no plans for a ban.

Ettedgui says he supports
the current laws, successfully
used, for example, to deport
notorious denier Ernst Zundel
to Germany in 2005.

Despite his age, Ettedgui
is qualified to speak on the
subject as a co-author of the
Wiesenthal Center's annual
report, *Digital Terrorism
and Hate*, which documents
hate speech and anti-Semitic
websites on the Internet.

In his talk in Ottawa, he
will focus on the rise of
President Mahmoud Ahm-
adinejad of Iran, who
recently convened a confer-
ence of Holocaust deniers
from around the world in
Tehran.

This type of "organized
historical revisionism," as
Ettedgui calls it, goes hand
in hand with the websites he
monitors, "a number of
which are by very well-
funded and well-organized
groups whose sole purpose
is to deny the Holocaust."

The Jewish War Veterans

feel very strongly about this
issue, says Horace Beilin,
deputy post commander.
They are holding this talk to
reach out to the community
and show anti-Semitism
cannot be ignored.

"Sixty-two years after
the Holocaust, a lot of anti-
Semitism is coming up
again," says the veteran.
"When you think about
what Simon Wiesenthal
himself went through, today
we're starting to see almost
a repeat in the making. We
need to make sure we don't
just turn our heads the other
way, that we do everything
in our power to stop it."

Michael Ettedgui will
speak at Agudath Israel
Synagogue on Sunday, June
10 at 11:30 am. Entitled
"Anti-Semitism and Holo-
caust Denial 62 Years After
Liberation," the event will
have a fully served lun-
cheon and costs \$45.00.

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made me feel so good. Your thoughtfulness was
very much appreciated. Please accept this as my
personal thank you. Lynda Nadolny-Cogan

Mailbag

Nazi analogy erroneous / insensitive

I was deeply disturbed to open the most recent edition of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* and find, in the article *Fighting security certificates by welcoming a stranger*, the sort of erroneous and insensitive Nazi analogy that seems to be, sadly, all too common-place today.

"She [Diana Ralph] sees parallels between Nazi Germany and the use of security certificates, namely they have been used almost exclusively against Arab Muslims just as Nazi laws singled out Jews."

Such analogies serve only to diminish the evil of Nazism. More importantly, comparing our civilized Canadian democracy to anything Nazi-like is both sad and absurd.

The Nazi Nuremberg Laws were the creation of a brutal dictatorship while Canada's security laws are the result of the deliberations of a democratically elected government; the security certificates are triggered by behaviour and a regard for national security, whereas the Nazi laws were aimed at ethnicity regardless of behaviour; the Nazi laws were part of a deadly progression from diminishment to dehumanization to destruction, whereas the Arab Muslim community in Canada is able to fully participate in the social and economic life of this country.

We've had occasion in the last month to comment in the mainstream media that Nazi analogies are intended to maximize the evil of the target and have the perhaps-unintended effect of minimizing the horrors of Nazism. We never expected to have this discussion with the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*.

Bernie M. Farber, Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Jewish Congress

Parallel drawn obscene

As a devoted reader of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*, I was appalled to see such considerable and well-placed space in the May 14 issue given to two ultra-naïve women and their efforts to combat the Canadian government's use of security certificates.

There has been constant and reasoned debate within Canada about these certificates, both pro and con, and it still goes on. It is nothing short of an obscenity for these two people to draw a parallel between the Nazi persecution of the Jews and the surveillance and detention of those who fit the profile of terrorists.

The world knows that the majority of terror attacks are committed by Islamists. Where have these two women been hiding since 9/11? If Hassan Almrei has clean hands, the truth will out.

Evelyn Greenberg

Comparison totally ridiculous

Among the many wonderful rights and protections we have in Canada is the right to defend ourselves in a court of law against charges made against us. Because I treasure the values of Canada, I also object to the use of security certificates, which have been ruled in violation of the Charter.

That is as far as the similarities go between my view of the situation and that of your featured women in your recent article.

I feel compelled to express my opinion of the many misleading, incorrect and naïve conclusions drawn by Diana Ralph and Jean Hanson regarding the use of security certificates, the alleged similarities with Nazi Germany and the spreading Islamophobia.

Any comparison between the use of security certificates and the treatment of Jews by Nazi Germany is totally ridiculous and unjustified. There are 600,000 Muslims living in freedom in Canada. They work and live beside us. They are MPs, doctors, lawyers, teachers, sales clerks, students and taxi drivers who come and go in safety. They, like you and me, can practise their religion and customs with the knowledge the Canadian government protects their rights.

As for spreading Islamophobia, Muslims are doing an excellent job without anyone else's help. The hateful words of Muslim world leaders in Malaysia and Iran, the murderous actions of suicide bombers in Bali, London, Madrid and Jerusalem, the luring of young men to jihad in mosques around the world, kidnappings and beheadings of journalists, and the threats of death to politicians, cartoonists and brave Muslims who denounce radical Islam are more than enough to promote apprehension against the Islamic faith. Muslims are doing a good job on their own and can take full credit without blaming Americans.

I believe Hanson and Ralph are naïvely confusing the just cause of speaking out against the inability of a person to know the evidence brought against him with assuming the innocence of Hassan Almrei. They are foolishly willing to open their home to a man who may genuinely be dangerous and a threat to our security.

And, finally, the hostile and negative treatment of homosexuals and lesbians by Muslim governments is well documented. The efforts of Hanson and Ralph would be better served by publicizing the treatment of, and supporting, gays in Muslim countries who suffer far worse fates than sitting in a Canadian jail.

Janice Fine

Letters welcome

Letters to the Editor are welcome if they are brief, signed, timely and of interest to our readership. The OJB reserves the right to refuse, edit or condense letters. The Mailbag column is published as space permits.

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Students may apply for all three, and must indicate this wish. If applying to the Carlofsky Scholarship, the applicant must be related to or sponsored by a Jewish War Veteran.* Only one award/scholarship can be won by any one applicant. The awards and scholarship will be paid out upon proof of acceptance at a post-secondary institution.

In the letter of application, applicants must provide a copy of academic transcript, evidence of superior qualities of leadership, good citizenship, sportsmanship, and volunteer work, at school, within the Jewish Community, and the community at large.

All applicants should provide a letter stating why they think they are eligible. Enclose any support material you may think relevant, to be received no later than June 30, 2007.

Send submissions to :

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Awards Committee, Ottawa Post Jewish War Veterans of Canada
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* Those requiring Jewish War Veteran sponsorship
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72nd Annual General Meeting

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Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award • Roger Greenberg
Freiman Family Young Leadership Award • Mitchell Miller
Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award • Sam Ages

Let's win our version of the Stanley Cup

Departing chair issues challenge

In my day job consulting to family businesses, one of the things I enjoy doing is talking to my clients about their legacy. When you leave this world, what is important for you to leave behind?

I find, by having a conversation like that, I help clients sort out not only their business goals but also their life goals while there is still time.

My about-to-expire term as chair of the Federation has been built around having the same conversation with the family business known as the Ottawa Jewish community. Given the number of members and their range of interests and needs, I knew this was going to be more of a challenge than the typical family businesses I usually deal with!

At the recent symposium to build Ottawa's Jewish future, one of the speakers told our community leadership if we lead without first having a clear mission, we will end up with something similar to what happened at Mount Sinai while Moses' brother was in charge - a golden calf.

I understood that point several years ago when I joined the Vaad officers and



Federation Report

Ron Prehogan
Chair

saw from the inside how uninspiring we were. We were running a boring business, not inspiring a community - no wonder we were having so much trouble getting people engaged.

That realization motivated me to want to lead the Ottawa Jewish community, first by chairing the Vaad's Strategic Planning Task Force and then by becoming Federation chair.

As I write my last *Bulletin* column as chair, I ask myself, is the Federation any closer to leading with a mission than we were six years ago when I chaired the Strategic Planning Task Force?

I believe we are. As a result of the work of the Strategic Planning Task Force, we have a board of directors making decisions for the community the way corporate boards make decisions for their companies.

We have learned and are still learning that, to properly lead the community, we

do it by responsible action, not by community consensus.

Of course, we engage the community, as we must, but, at the end of the day, it is the board making the tough and sometimes unpopular decisions.

The other thing I believe has taken us closer to leading with a mission is the symposium, which I had set out to accomplish as the signature event of my term as Federation chair.

As our community has headed towards the golden calf over the past several years, leaders of major community organizations like the SJCC and Hillel Academy have been pleading with us at the Vaad (and now the Federation) to tell them what the community vision is. These leaders were worried about where their organizations were headed and were reaching out to us to help them find the answers.

The greatest accomplishment of the symposium was it got our community asking itself some questions that had never been asked before at a community level.

Will our grandchildren be Jewish? What must we start doing now to increase the odds?

At the symposium, we searched for answers together from a community perspective. More importantly, hopefully it also made us search for answers in our

own personal lives.

At the Federation, our ability to successfully lead and inspire this community to greatness turns on our ability to continue to focus on our mission and ensure the continued significance of the Jewish people. This is the specific challenge I leave for my successor, Jonathan Freedman, and his board and to Mitchell Bellman and his staff.

It won't be easy, but who ever said easy was the way to greatness?

The Ottawa Senators became a great hockey team this year when their star players went down to injury in mid-season and the rest of the team realized they would have to work harder than ever before, if they had a chance to make the playoffs, let alone win the Stanley Cup. They were scared into action.

And so should we be with all the signs of loosening connections to things Jewish happening around us. Inter-marriage statistics, declining enrolment at Hillel Academy and a declining campaign donor base are just a few of the things that come to mind.

We have a crisis on our hands and let us not be afraid to admit that. Then, and only then, can we go about doing what we need to do to win our version of the Stanley Cup.

Please be sure to support our team.

One mishpocha: bring the spirit of Israel home

These lines are written shortly after my return from our community's mission to Israel. As important as it is to go to Israel, there is another part of the mission we should consider - bringing the spirit of Israel home.

On our first day there, my wife and I joined Shmuel and Tirtza, a family in Metula, the most northern point of Israel on the Lebanese border, for lunch at the park. Here we were, a couple from Ottawa sitting with Shmuel, who works the land and has an orchard that produces a variety of delicious fruits, and it felt like sitting with family.

"It is so beautiful," said Tirtza when opening a gift we had brought from Ottawa. "I will put it away and, from now on, it will adorn our Pesach Seder table."

One of her children added, "Every year, we will remember our family in Ottawa."

Spending the afternoon together, I came to realize we were two Jewish families from different parts of the world, who spoke different languages at home and led different lifestyles. Yet, we had something in common, something making us feel as one. What unites us are our discussions about the Pesach Seder, our traditions, the way we celebrate the different Jewish holidays, synagogue life, and, of course, some good Jewish politics.

The beauty of the Federation's mission to Israel is you spend a week with a cross-section of our community, yet you feel like one "Ottawa mishpocha," or family. We may not



From the pulpit

Rabbi
Menachem Blum
OTC Chabad

all be the same - even within our own community we have our differences - yet we are one.

What is it that makes us feel as one? What unites a Jew in Ottawa with one in Casablanca, Budapest, Russia or anywhere else? We don't speak the same language, we don't eat the same food and we don't dress the same way.

However, we do light candles on Chanukah, eat the same matzah and drink four cups of wine during Pesach. We fast the same way on Yom Kippur and on our door a mezuzah is fixed. A baby boy in Yemen or in Vancouver will be circumcised at eight days old and anywhere in the world our wedding ceremony will be under a chupah.

Although we may be spread out throughout the world, Judaism unites us all.

This month, we celebrate the holiday of Shavuot - when we received the Torah 3,319 years ago on Mount Sinai. The Midrash relates how God asked the Jewish people for a guarantee they would stay connected to the Torah. It is only the children God would accept as guarantor, for the children are our

future and, if they are connected to the Torah and our traditions, this will ensure the continuity of our people and their commitment to the Torah. If our children have the knowledge of what it means to be Jewish and are taught our traditions, a sense of pride in their Jewish identity develops within them.

The traditions of Judaism unite us. When we talk about continuity and what we can do to ensure our grandchildren are Jewish, it's all about learning and education - learning about the Torah ourselves and educating the next generation by showing them what has

united us with Jews all over the world for centuries.

As they say on the airplane: "If you are travelling with children, always make sure you secure your mask before assisting others."

As we receive the Torah once again this Shavuot, we must rededicate ourselves to becoming more knowledgeable about what it means to be Jewish and about what unites us.

We must make sure the next generation, our children, feel part of "the mishpocha."

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

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Rideau Bakery heading to the silver screen

Like many other citizens of this fair city, I am crazy about Rideau Bakery bread. So much so that, whenever we have out-of-town visitors, we always serve it. For visitors I really like, I have even been known to take them on a bakery run to pick up triple marble, which, unfortunately – or, considering my waistline, maybe fortunately – isn't available at the local grocery store.

At the Bank Street store, I used to schmooze with the now-retired Annie Brozovsky, who seemed to be able to carry on a conversation while serving dozens of people at once without messing up an order. Funny how you always ended up with more delicious baked goods than you expected when Annie was there to serve you, and you always left with a smile on your face.

Talk about being at home. Annie was born in and lived above the old store on the corner of Nelson and Rideau streets. She remembers the apartment "being like a sauna," when the bakery ovens were on. As a child and teenager, she helped out her father and uncle. Once her own children were older, she returned to the bakery and spent more than 25 years there.

"I loved every minute of it. It was in my blood," she says.

A visit to the downtown store would



Editor

Barry Fishman

not be complete without sitting at the lunch counter and enjoying the entertainment as the regulars' kibbitz with each other and the bakery staff. Even the customers lined up at the cash get into the action, zinging one-liners back and forth.

The bakery first opened its doors in 1930 when brothers Dovid and Abie began baking, using their mother Rivika's secret bread recipes. Rivika, who owned and ran a bakery in Kamianets-Podilski, Ukraine, before emigrating to Canada, taught her boys well. They trained subsequent generations in the art of bread- and pastry-baking. Today, fourth-generation Louis Kardash manages the Bank Street store and his brother David runs the Rideau store, while their sister Debbie Baylin looks after the accounting and is the family historian.

Ottawa film producer/director Ed Kucerak and writer/producer Jane Gurr thought the story of the Kardash family

and their bakery would make an interesting documentary. The result is *One of the Last*, a moving and entertaining film about the history of the family and what its kosher bakery means not just to the Jewish community, but to the city.

The storyline did not start out that way. In fact, the filmmakers were first at the Rideau Bakery doing a documentary on ethnic lunch counters in Ottawa. They soon realized they had a much more interesting story and, at the Hot Docs film festival in Toronto, OMNI television agreed to fund the project.

"Watching them bake was like watching a dance. They all worked in such harmony," says director Kucerak. He especially enjoyed the Kardash family Shabbat dinner he attended and spending time at the bakery.

Kucerak, who is a regular customer, also had a personal reason for making the documentary.

"At the time, a number of anti-Semitic incidents had taken place in the city and I was pretty upset about it," he says. "I thought it was important to get this film made for the city. Here was this Jewish bakery that was much loved by the citizens of Ottawa."

Baylin calls the film a "lovely tribute to the family." Her only regret is her

Uncle Pinhey, who worked in the bakery as a young boy and is featured in the film, died before seeing the documentary.

Brother Louis was pleased with the film. He just wishes it was a bit longer than its 50 minutes so more family members could have been featured.

The fact Rideau Bakery has lasted four – rumour has it soon to be five – generations as a family-owned bakery is truly amazing.

"I am overwhelmed at four and thankful for every day," says Louis.

"It must be because we are too stubborn to give up," his sister laughingly adds.

The family plans to hold a screening of *One of the Last* on Tuesday, June 5, at 7:30 pm at the Library and Archives Canada auditorium, 395 Wellington Street. The cost is \$10 and tickets are available at both bakery locations. Proceeds will be donated to charity.

Following the film, a reception will be held – featuring Rideau Bakery products, I hope. Members of the Kardash family will be on hand to answer questions.

One of the Last will debut on OMNI 1 television on Sunday, June 17 at 9:00 pm. The film will repeat on Saturday, June 23, Sunday, August 26 and Saturday, September 1 on OMNI 1.

Do you remember where you were when ...?

Great historical events not only represent turning points in national and international affairs, but often stir up personal memories of time and place:

- If you're old enough to remember the assassination of John F. Kennedy, you never will forget where you were and what you were doing when you heard the news ...

- "Trudeaumania" describes a specific political campaign, but it also evokes an entire era ...

- The patriation of the Constitution ... The fall of the Berlin Wall ... South Africa's first free elections ... The 9/11 attacks ... there are many examples.

Which brings us to this political punch line: Where were you and what were you doing during Gilles Duceppe's campaign for the Parti Québécois leadership?

Since the campaign lasted about 24 hours, it's possible you slept through a third of it. So ... what are your personal recollections of the era?

How was lunch that day?

Did you pick up the dry-cleaning before you heard Duceppe had dropped out of the race?

Already, the high and low points of the campaign – that wasn't fade from memory.

Duceppe launched his bid on a Friday afternoon and was greeted by polls Satur-



Alan Echenberg

day morning showing he was well behind Pauline Marois as the voters' choice to lead the party. By sundown, he changed his mind about running.

If you are a Shomer Shabbas, you might have missed his entire campaign.

By Monday morning, Duceppe was back in Ottawa, tail between his legs, asking for his old job back as Bloc Québécois leader.

The Bloc caucus unanimously agreed. After all, Duceppe hadn't quit the job, so much as taken a lost weekend away from it. Also, can you name – off the top of your head – a single Bloc MP who would be an obvious successor?

"I'm very pleased to see the leader of the Bloc with us," said one cabinet minister in the House of Commons that day.

"It's almost as if he never even left."

Duceppe can expect more of the same kind of razzing all the way into the next federal election. It's not a question of whether or not, but rather how much, the

self-inflicted wound of an aborted campaign damaged his political career.

But, if leaders of other federal parties are tempted to give Duceppe a hard time for a while, they should keep in mind the old saying about politicians who live in glass houses (of commons).

Duceppe is not the only political poobah limping into the summer barbecue circuit with his status diminished.

Take Stéphane Dion. He was the surprise choice of Liberals to lead their party through the wilderness of opposition. But he actually led them lower in the polls than where they had been as a leaderless party.

His biggest break probably came when a long-predicted spring election failed to materialize – an election that might have been a disaster for the rookie leader and his party.

Similarly, the NDP – under Jack Layton – has not exactly set afire the imaginations of Canadian voters. The party is struggling in the polls and in distinguishing itself as it gets squeezed by a growing number of parties on the left of the political spectrum.

One of those parties is Elizabeth May's Green Party. The Greens have surged in the polls relative to where they were in the past. But they haven't actually arrived at a point where they are likely to win any

seats.

And May, too, has stumbled in her political judgment. She chose to become a candidate in a Nova Scotia riding she has little chance of taking from Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay, instead of picking one where the Greens are more competitive. Stéphane Dion's decision not to run a local candidate against her may help, but May would have had a fighting chance elsewhere.

Finally, with the finish line of a possible election campaign nowhere in sight, Stephen Harper's governing Conservatives seem to be running out of gas.

As files such as the environment and the war in Afghanistan drag down the government's popularity, it appears to have lost the sense of purpose characterizing its early months.

The result? With no federal party in any position to confidently bring down the minority parliament, election talk has cooled off completely.

If this keeps up – and that, of course, is a big "if" – we may be looking at the longest-lasting minority government in Canadian history.

You'll be able to tell your grandchildren where you were and what you were doing when the record was broken.

Alan Echenberg is TVOntario's Parliamentary bureau chief.

Grandson discovers Churchill a great statesman

By Alexander Baker

The grandson himself admits it: there are very few people in the world, alive or dead, who are as well renowned as the late Sir Winston Churchill.

When speaking about his grandfather, Winston Spencer-Churchill eloquently combines his own experiences as a journalist, author, politician, and adventurer with anecdotes about his late grandfather, whom he discovered was actually a great statesman.

"When I was six or eight years old," Churchill recalls, "I might have said he was a bricklayer because all we seemed to do was work on the very tall wall around the vegetable garden."

The 66-year-old Churchill, a member of parliament for 27 years until his seat was abolished in 1997, now spends his days trekking through Nepal or the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia, where he says he "rejoiced in discovering the thrills of heli-skiing." He was in town to give the Kollel of Ottawa's annual keynote address, entitled, "Democracy and Freedom Under Threat."

Infused with typical British candor, Churchill's discourse was

insightful and charming, while at the same time put listeners at ease.

"Extremist Islam has declared war on the rest of the world," Churchill told a packed room in the Centre Block of Parliament Hill.

"Within one generation, France will have become a Muslim country – a truly awesome concept and a form of 'national suicide.' Can anyone imagine a situation in reverse, for example, an influx of non-believers into Saudi Arabia?"

It is poignant questions like these Churchill seems to have the clout and worldliness to ask.

In his opening remarks, he told a story of being a journalist in an Israeli hotel in 1967, meeting with then-Prime Minister David Ben Gurion. As they spoke, he turned on the radio in the hotel room and heard the words of Egypt's Nasser, declaring war on Israel. Churchill describes Ben Gurion's reaction in solemn tones.

"[Ben Gurion] looked at me and said, 'This means war.' He admitted he was scared, he said, 'for the younger generation. They are the ones who don't return.' At that point I, a Brit, wanted to grab whatever weapon was on hand and fight beside the Israelis!"

Churchill has similar stories featuring other famous Israeli personalities. While working for the *Times of London* and covering the Six Day War, he was expecting a call from Maj. Gen. Ariel Sharon.

"Winston, this is Arik. Arik from Africa," Sharon said in a booming voice that forced Churchill to hold the phone at arms' length. "'We have peace,' he told me. 'A piece of Egypt, a piece of Lebanon, a piece of Syria, and a piece of Jordan.' There you have it, the Sharon vision of peace. There is no denying he is God's gift to journalists."

But it was not all reminiscences. Churchill spoke at length about "the thorny question of Iraq" and the war on terror.

"I was a strong supporter of the war from the outset, but colossal mistakes have been made along the way," said Churchill. "All the questions today are immaterial. What's important is Iraq has become the epicentre of militant Islam and the price of failure would be unquantifiable."

He went on to discuss the "false comparisons" between Iraq and the Vietnam War, the difference being, "when the Americans withdrew from Vietnam, they knew their ene-

mies would not follow them home."

The threat of global terrorism, he says, is the fundamental difference between the Middle East wars he covered in his day and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan today.

"This is the fundamental challenge the world has to recognize," said Rabbi Binyomin Holland of Kollel of Ottawa. "If you cut and run, you're securing, in a short period of time, a challenge to democracy and our way of life."

However, Churchill had almost equal contempt and praise for the American military and its system of immigration, respectively.

"There must be an immediate re-evaluation of the use of raw air power by our American allies and the firmest measures put in place to rein in the trigger-happy propensities of certain U.S. military and marine corps units," he said. "There seems to be a monumental lack of concern ... at the colossal loss of civilian lives in both Iraq and Afghanistan."

"I saw it all 40 years ago in Vietnam and nothing has changed. How easily the power of modern fighter bombers can go to one's head. You have to be desperately careful you're getting the right target."

Vietnam was not the only scene of destruction Churchill witnessed. While covering the Biafran War in Nigeria during the late 1960s, he watched helplessly as, night after night, a maternity clinic was deliberately bombed by the Nigerian air force. He also described rushing out to give blood at the outset of the 1973 Yom Kippur war, when thousands of empty graves were being dug in city parks for the large number of anticipated casualties.

Churchill's most interesting discourse of the evening, though, came in his remarks on the topic of immigration.

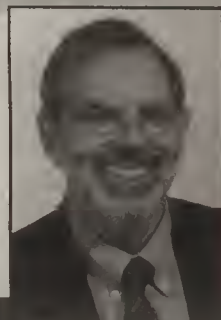
"Americans do this childish thing where they wrap themselves in the Stars and Stripes, say the Pledge of Allegiance every morning," he says. "We Europeans have never gone for that sort of thing, but after 7/7 [the London bombings] ... we recognized how important it is welcoming immigrants and going through the bonding process."

If there is anyone who understands the dynamics of war, appeasement and immigration, it is the grandson of the late Winston Churchill. After all, he says, "my grandfather invented Iraq."

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David Dewitt is Associate Vice-President Research (Social Sciences and Humanities) and Professor of Political Science at the Centre for International and Security Studies, York University, Toronto.



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Canada's Ambassador visits Negev with JNF

John Allen, Canada's Ambassador to Israel, paid a visit to the Nir Am reservoir recently. Standing atop a hill overlooking the Gaza Strip, he was amazed at the sight before him. "I've come to the northern Negev to learn something about Israel's water problems and about the wonderful methods of dealing with them," he said, sporting a KKL-JNF cap as protection against the rays of the winter sun. "I've heard of KKL-JNF's important achievements in this field and I've come to listen and observe first hand."

The Nir Am reservoir is one of several using treated sewage effluent to irrigate fields and green areas. Israel produces 450 million cubic metres of sewage per year. Sewage that has undergone a high level of treatment can be used for agricultural irrigation without any fear of contaminating the land or the groundwater.

"Thanks to good Jews living in far-off Canada, who have contributed in no small measure to ensure that the rivers of the Negev are lined with greenery, children can play in the arid parks, the desert wilderness will come alive and we can enjoy the full bloom of spring," said Dimona Mayor Meir Cohen.

Ambassador Allen stopped to read the sign expressing gratitude to the Canadian donors whose contributions made Nir Am a reality. "It's a privilege for me to represent the people of Canada here in Israel," he said. "I can see how important their contribution to KKL-JNF is."

Annual General Meeting set for Tuesday, June 12

The Annual General Meeting of JNF Ottawa takes place on Tuesday, June 12 at 564 Hillsdale Road, Rockcliffe. We are currently accepting nominations for new board members. Anyone interested in joining our vibrant board, please contact Margo at the JNF office, 613.798.2411.

June 30 last day to join JNF's Fall Mission

June 30 is the last day to join JNF Canada's Mission to Israel with a visit to Rome and Florence – October 7 - 22. Only a few seats remain on this all-inclusive luxury package featuring first class accommodations, incredible sightseeing opportunities in Italy and Israel, and sharing special times throughout every phase of the journey. Cost: \$4,995 Cdn per person double occupancy (ex-Toronto). Call the JNF Ottawa office for more information, 613.798.2411.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Inscriptions

Ethan Ben-Ami Sanders by his parents Tani and Gregory Sanders; Adam Grodinsky by his parents Colette and Stephen Grodinsky; Noam Goldfarb by his Bubbie Reba Diener; Noam Goldfarb by his Bubbie Esther Goldfarb; Kendal Jena Burtch by her mother Bryna Burtch; Wesley Ostrega by his parents Joy and Ken Ostrega; Matthew Moses Segal by his parents Karen Palayew and Lorne Segal; Elizabeth Leah Skoll by her parents Norine Hum and David Skoll. Mazal Tov and a Hearty Yasher Koach to all!

Golden Book Inscriptions

On the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah, Wesley Ostrega has been inscribed in the Golden Book by his proud parents Joy and Ken Ostrega.

On a daily basis you can plant trees for all occasions. An attractive card is sent to the recipient. To order, call the JNF office (798-2411).



Serving the community throughout the Ages

By Alexander Baker

Sam Ages is truly a man of few words.

Despite winning this year's Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award, one of the most prestigious awards the community gives out, Ages refuses to take any credit or praise.

"I am a bit taken aback because so many others are so deserving," says the 84-year-old Ottawa native. "The people who work on the board of the Federation, for example, they're the ones who deserve it. I look around me and there are so many other people who should get it."

Rabbi Arnold Fine, who supported Sam's nomination for the award and has been his friend for more than 25 years, tells a different tale.

"Sam has an extraordinarily good name and an extraordinary reputation in the community and I wanted to say thank you to a great guy," he says. "If something has to be done and it will add to the benefit of the community, Sam has the abilities and the talents to do it and do it well. *Menschkeit* just emerges and emanates from him."

Menschkeit, or the qualities and characteristics of being a *mensch*, is

exactly what embodies the Shem Tov Award and makes the soft-spoken Sam such a worthy recipient. Over the years, he has participated in virtually any organization or fundraiser the community has had, from the old Jewish Social Services Agency to the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society to the United Jewish Appeal. In fact, Sam has always been so active and dedicated, he was honoured for 25 years of volunteering and fundraising for the UJA in 1994, more than a decade ago!

Sam's history of volunteerism in Ottawa goes back a long way. He was involved with B'nai Brith Youth and the Cub Scouts since before the Second World War, helping revive Ottawa's Jewish Cub Pack twice after it had gone on hiatus, first in 1953 then again in 1993 after a 25-year absence. He is a veteran of the Second World War and remains an active officer of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Ottawa Post, as well as giving class talks and speaking to organizations about his wartime experience.



Sam Ages, winner
of the 2007 Shem Tov
Community Volunteer Award

Sam is also currently the *Gabbai rishon* of the local Chevra Kadisha, the role he says he is most proud of out of all the positions he has held in the Ottawa Jewish community. Rabbi Fine praises Sam for accepting the difficult job of preparing bodies for Jewish funerals. He describes it as "a job few people want to do, but one Sam knew had to be done when no one else would step forward."

Sam has also been highly involved in Agudath Israel Congregation over the years, serving as its *parnas*, organizing *aliyot*, ensuring a daily *minyan*, and anything else the synagogue needs. Rabbi Fine says Sam is so loved by the men of the *minyan*, about 15 years ago they created a "mock award" and made Sam "the first and only recipient, as a way to show our appreciation."

Sam was also honoured with a community award in 2002, when he was given the Raoul Wallenberg Lending Hand Award for outstanding volunteerism and generosity. In typical Sam Ages fashion, during his acceptance speech he asked "who am I?" to receive the award and donated the \$1,000 prize back to his charity of choice, the Ottawa Boys and Girls Club.

When asked how Sam will accept the Shem Tov Award, Rabbi Fine predicts he will do so "with a great deal of shyness. He's a very shy man, not totally comfortable with notoriety. He may not want the credit, but it's coming to him anyway."

Sam Ages will be presented with the Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award at the Federation AGM on Wednesday, June 6.

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Birthday boy gets a gift from the whole community

By Alexander Baker

Mitchell Miller is so busy volunteering in the Ottawa Jewish community he barely had time to win the Freiman Family Young Leadership Award.

"I just made it in under the wire," Mitch says, describing the phone call he got telling him he'd won. The call came on the day of his 40th birthday, and the award is given to someone who demonstrates excellent leadership, under the age of 40!

Despite his age, there is no doubt Mitch is a worthy recipient.

He is a member of the SJCC Board of Directors, secretary of its Executive Committee and chair of the Summer Camps Committee, among others. He is highly involved with sports in the Jewish community, from the annual Celebrity Sports Dinner - one of the community's largest fundraisers - to the Breakfast of Champions event celebrating young athletes, to helping bring the Israeli Under-18 hockey team to Ottawa. In his earlier days, he was the Ottawa director of the B'nai Brith Youth Organization.

"Mitch is consistently thinking about the Jewish community," says his friend and the man who nominated him for the award, Jason Shinder. "Whether he's helping youth, young families, or increasing the community spirit towards Israel, whatever he does he puts his heart and soul into it. Mitch spends all his free time helping the Jewish community."

Shinder would certainly know what makes a Freiman Award winner, having won the prize himself

last year. Mitch, however, says it is friends like Shinder who have made his contributions possible.

"I've been very, very lucky to have friends and contacts who have invited me to be on committees and groups," he says. "When Jason Shinder or Stuart Ages calls and says 'do you want to be on the Sports Dinner committee', you don't say 'no'."

Mitch, who has "a hard time saying no" regardless of who is doing the asking, says another factor allows him to spend so much time volunteering.

"My wife Lisa has made it very easy to be active in the community because she also volunteers a lot and she never gets upset at me for going out to meetings," he says.

"She's never handed me a hard time, never says I need to be home more. She's very supportive."

When asked what his favourite project has been, Mitch describes his work with the Israeli hockey program and bringing their junior team to Ottawa.

"Putting hockey and Israel together combines two passions for a lot of people in this community," he says. "Hopefully, it not only helps grow hockey in Israel, but also gives another avenue for outreach in the community."

It is his desire to build connections to Israel, and among Jews in Ottawa, that Shinder says makes Mitch worthy of the award.

"It's just his character. He grew up here and he has a passion for the

community," he says. "He's a family-oriented guy who prioritizes family, friends and community above all else."

Mitch, for his part, says he is motivated by a need to put his money where his mouth is.

"I'm not a big fan of people who sit back and say, 'they should do this or that', when they should be part of the 'they'. It's just a matter of people being passionate. Everyone has some spare time to give."

As the Freiman Family Young Leadership Award winner, Mitch will also receive the Lawrence Greenberg Young Leadership Award, which sponsors his attendance at the United Jewish Communities of North America's annual General Assembly.



Mitch Miller (left) will be presented with the awards at the Federation AGM on June 6

Rabbi Crispe OTC Shabbaton scholar-in-residence

What does Jewish thought say about stem cell research, personal transformation, the future of entertainment? All this and more will be discussed at a community Shabbaton at Ottawa Torah Center Chabad (OTC) with scholar-in-residence Rabbi Asher Crispe.

"This weekend will be one of unbelievable wisdom, warmth and wit, the hallmarks of Rabbi Crispe's presentations," assures Rabbi Menachem Blum of OTC.

Rabbi Crispe is the director of the Institute for Jewish Thought and Culture, an independent non-profit organization celebrating Jewish accomplishment in the arts and sciences. A doctoral student in philosophy of religion at New York University, Rabbi Crispe is a warm and engaging speaker whose talent is in



Rabbi Asher Crispe

taking the esoteric and often inaccessible texts and concepts of Kabbalah and Chassidic philosophy and making them palpable and under-

standable to the general public.

While living abroad, he spent a year as a research fellow for Mercaz Shalem, the national policy institute for public policy and social thought in Israel.

He has also been a guest lecturer at numerous Jewish centres and universities, both in Israel and abroad, and has appeared on television and radio programs. He specializes in teaching week-long seminars on the arts and sciences as seen through the lens of the Torah. Topics he has taught include music, medicine, art, psychology, genetics, physics, law, education, economics and political science.

Participants will feel the glow and radiance of Shabbat with family and friends.

"This unforgettable, fulfilling weekend of spiritual pleasure will include joyous songs, culinary delight, thought-provoking lectures and exciting discussions," says Rabbi Blum.

OTC's famous-in-Ottawa full-course, delicious Shabbat dinner will be served.

It takes place June 8-9, at OTC, 3023 Cedarview Road in Barrhaven. The cost for Friday night is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. There is a suggested donation of \$10 a person for the lunch; the Saturday night program is free. A children's program will be available during prayers and lectures.

For more information and to RSVP by June 5, please call the OTC at 613-823-0866 or visit: www.OttawaTorahCenter.com.

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Ottawan Hannah Moscovitch's play featured at Magnetic North

By Alexander Baker

"I had an image – the first scene of the play – of a shabby-looking woman, she looks like a prostitute, asking the audience if they know how to hide a piece of bread."

From that opening scene on, Hannah Moscovitch's *The Russian Play* has garnered rave reviews and captured the imaginations of audiences. Moscovitch, a 28-year-old playwright and daughter of Federation Board member Allan Moscovitch, says she gets asked about her inspiration all the time and never has a good answer.

"There's just something odd about this piece," she says. "That's the thing. Sometimes, with art, it's just a mystery where it comes from."

At its heart, *The Russian Play* is about "love that is both tragic and beautiful: a flower shop girl who falls in love with a grave-digger," says Moscovitch. "But every time I talk about what happens in the play people get the impression it's a drama. It doesn't take itself so seriously, it's more light."

For one thing, the flower-shop girl and main character, Sonya, uses meta-



Hannah Moscovitch

theatrical devices, meaning she talks directly to the audience and her character knows she is in a theatre. This technique often creates irony and lighter scenes. There is also a violinist on stage throughout, "on the line" between interacting with the characters and just providing the score.

While the play does not actually have any Jewish content, a number of Jews

worked on it. Moscovitch, the writer, and director Natasha Mytnowych are both Jewish, along with one of the actors. The play has already received critical praise, winning the 2006 SummerWorks Jury Prize for Outstanding Production.

The Russian Play is coming to Ottawa as part of the Magnetic North Theatre Festival, taking place at the National Arts Centre from June 6-16. Another part of Magnetic North, a play called *The One That Got Away*, will be held at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. If this seems like an odd venue, the reason is simple: the play takes place in a pool!

Featuring floating sets, underwater choreography, live poolside music, and lots of marine metaphors, *The One That Got Away* is a different kind of theatrical experience.

For more information about *The Russian Play*, *The One That Got Away* or Magnetic North, visit www.magneticnorthfestival.ca. Also stay tuned for another of Moscovitch's award winning plays coming soon to Ottawa, *The Essay*.

A humorous look at the Jewish summer camp experience

By Maxine Miska

Jewish summer camp is like cognac – wine distilled into a potent spirit.

All of Jewish history and tradition is condensed into eight weeks of live performances through campfires, songs, colour wars, and Oneg Shabbat. Friendships and romances are out of proportion and intensely dramatic. Summer camp is the premier experience ... for many things.

Amy Salloway captures the overwrought essence of Jewish summer camp in her solo play, *So Kiss me Already, Herschel Gertz!* Salloway's tender and humorous coming-of-age comedy is based on her experience in a Conservative Jewish summer camp in 1986, where she feels "like a pork chop in an all-kosher world."

Salloway brought the play to the Ottawa Fringe Festival last year, and will do a performance at the SJCC on Monday, June 25



Amy Salloway performs in her own play *So Kiss me Already, Herschel Gertz!*

at 7:30 pm.

While Salloway anticipates a summer when she will emerge from her dorky cocoon as a hip butterfly, she

finds her parents have other plans: exile to "freakishly Jewish" Camp L'Chaim, where "even the mosquitoes wear yarmulkes!"

Salloway employs the stance of a misfit outsider to illuminate how summer camps are a rite-of-passage for both adolescence and Jewish life.

The events in the play are so universal audience members have approached her to share their own camp experiences and to guess the real name of Camp L'Chaim, certain they must have attended the same camp.

Amy Salloway is a 30-something actor, writer and director who grew up in Milwaukee and has lived in Seattle and Minneapolis. In 1995, Amy began putting autobiographical material on stage with *Size of Discontent*, a play about body image performed for the Seattle Fringe Festival.

Tickets are \$10 for SJCC members and \$12 for non-members and available at the SJCC front desk and at the door.

For more information, 613-798-9818, ext. 263.



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The return of the Machzikei Hadas Sisterhood Strawberry Tea

By Sarah Gabrielle Waisvisz
The Sisterhood of Congregation Machzikei Hadas has made it their mission to reach out to the community with various events, including their pièce-de-résistance, the return, after many years, of their famous Strawberry Tea.

When I was a young student at

Hillel Academy, the Strawberry Tea seemed like a fancy party I would never be invited to. In my imagination, it was an exclusive and wonderful event for socialites and princesses in party dresses who nibbled cookies daintily and held delicate china teacups in gloved hands.

Thanks to the organization and generous attitude of the Machzikei Hadas Sisterhood, the Strawberry Tea returns this year on the afternoon of June 24, and I have been informed I do not have to marry an ambassador or become a princess to attend.

Although party dresses are still accepted, the event is not for members of Ottawa royalty only. The Sisterhood would like to welcome the entire community: older children, parents, brothers, third-cousins, aunts, uncles, bobbies

and zeydes, and yes, even sisters are invited to the tea. The afternoon will feature an elegant High Tea with an elaborate variety of desserts baked by the ladies of the Sisterhood. There will also be impressive door prizes, including Adobe Software.

Instead of drinking a cup of tea at the Chateau Laurier, join in a community celebration of summer with family and friends and enjoy a variety of cakes, chocolate cookies and maybe even scones. Will there be scones and preserves and

jam? And would it be OK if I came in a princess-gown and frilly gloves? I have been waiting for my invitation for many years, after all, and I definitely do not want to miss out!

The Machzikei Hadas Sisterhood Strawberry Tea takes place Sunday, June 24, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at 2310 Virginia Drive. There is no cost to this event although donations would be greatly appreciated. For further information, contact the shul at 613-521-9700.

A Lek un a Shmeck with Die Folkshpieler

By David Michaelson

Die Folkshpieler is back for a fifth season of *gelechter un gezang* (laughter and song).

On June 10, this Yiddish theatre group of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre will perform *A Lek un a Shmeck* at the Soloway JCC.

Shirley R. Steinberg is Die Folkshpieler's founder, director and chief writer. However, she has encouraged cast members such as Rubin Friedman and David Kwavnick to contribute their own material as well.

The result is *A Lek un a Shmeck* (bits and pieces), short skits and one- or two-person acts. In keeping with last year's show,

which the audience loved to pieces, each of 2007's *lekes* and *shmecks* will also illustrate a *sprichvort*, or Yiddish proverb.

This, of course, won't earn you a PhD in *mammeh toshen*. But we do want you to *platz* with *gelechter*. Also tap your toes to our singing, the piano of Aviva Lightstone and the flute of Elan Dubrovsky.

Remember: 2:00 pm, Sunday, June 10, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

For additional information and tickets, please contact Roslyn Wollock at 613-798-9818, ext. 254 or rwollock@jccottawa.com, or Sylvia Freeman at 613-828-3173.

Yitzhak Rabin fashion for a cause

Adam Sadinsky
YRHS student

Realizing *tzedakah* is a central element of Jewish practice, a group of enthusiastic Yitzhak Rabin students met to discuss ways of raising funds for charity. A number of charities were mentioned, but, in the end, breast cancer won out.

"Many of us have been affected in one way or another by breast cancer and we felt that we need to help women all over the world to win the battle against this awful disease. We need to save our women," said Mira Levine, who

promised to do whatever it took to help out on the project.

The students quickly agreed to English teacher Michael Goodman's idea of holding a fashion show. Unanimously, they decided the models should be local Jewish students from Yitzhak Rabin as well as from Hillel Academy. Tal-Or Ben Choreen, Ali Seller and professional choreographer Isabelle Shulman worked hard to turn everyday students into models.

While the work seemed to have no end, everyone involved was determined to continue, keeping

in mind what a difference they were making for so many people.

Idit Prizant and the clothing committee were able to attract top notch clothing outfitters such as American Apparel, Dickies and Ocean Pacific. Ardene will provide accessories for the show.

The show will take place Wednesday, May 30 at 7:00 pm at Yitzhak Rabin High School.

Tickets are \$18 and can be bought by calling Kayla Kershman at 613- 726-2999.

There will be a silent auction and the clothing will be available for purchase.

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A Hillel Lodge Honour Fund is a permanent pool of capital that earns interest or income each year. This income then supports the priorities designated by you, the donor.

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Paula and Manny Agulnik Mazal Tov and best wishes on the birth of your granddaughter by Shirley and Norman Levitt; Marion and Myer Vexler; and Ethlyn, Sara and Barry Agulnik.

Remy Albargi Memorial Fund

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William Affleck Congratulations on your acceptance to the Masters Program in Medical Ethics by Julia Gluck, Ted and Jess Overton.

Ibby Appel Best wishes for a Happy 95th Birthday by Julia Gluck, Ted and Jess Overton.

Sherri Horwich Best wishes for a Happy 60th Birthday by Julia Gluck, Ted and Jess Overton.

Maureen and Henry Molot Best wishes on your retirement by Julia Gluck, Ted and Jess Overton.

Andrew Overton Best wishes for a Happy 30th Birthday by Julia Gluck, Ted and Jess Overton.

Donna Shanley Best wishes for a Happy 60th Birthday by Julia Gluck, Ted and Jess Overton.

Inez Zelikovitz Mazal Tov on your 90th Birthday & best wishes for many more by Maureen Molot.

Evelyn and Irving Greenberg Family Fund

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Claire and Irving Bercovitch Mazal Tov and best wishes for good health and happiness in your new home by Morris Kimmel.

Sid Bosloy Happy Birthday by Morris Kimmel.

Lily Feig Happy and Healthy Birthday by Morris Kimmel, The Kaiman, Levine and Kimmel families.

Sylvia and Sol Kaiman Happy Anniversary by Morris Kimmel, Shelli and Steven Kimmel, Janet and Steve Kaiman, Brenda & Nathan Levine and families.

The Siegel Family Mazal Tov to all the good things happening in your lives by Brenda, Nathan, Jesse and Daniel Levine.

Inez Zelikovitz Happy Birthday by Morris Kimmel.

Bill and Phyllis Leith Family Endowment Fund

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Molly Greenberg Wishing you a very Happy and Healthy Birthday by Judi and Ed Kerzner.

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Stephanie Dancy Wishing a very Happy Birthday to our daughter with love by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

Professor Liviu Librescu Celebrating the life of a Holocaust survivor who, on Holocaust Memorial Day, sacrificed his life to save the lives of 20 of his students during the Virginia Tech massacre by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

Sarah and Arnie Swedler Family Fund

In Honour of:

Sheila Hartman Wishing you a Happy Birthday and may you celebrate many more by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

Laya Shahinsky Wishing you a Happy Birthday and may you celebrate many more by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

Sarah and Arnie Swedler Mazal Tov on your grandson's Bar Mitzvah by Jane and Bill James; and Sandy and Raoul Korngold.

Residents Feeding Program

In Memory of:

Gail Baylin by Dee and Yale Gaffen & Mitzi Merson.

Elizabeth Silver by Dee and Yale Gaffen & Mitzi Merson.

IN MEMORY OF:

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Goldie Lobel; Ethel and David Malek; Sonya Bodnoff; and Gladys and John Greenberg.

Estelle Aspler by Rhonda and Danny Levine.

Gail Baylin by Ellen and Marty Cardash; Sylvia and Bert Bronshter; Irma and Harold Sachs; Felice and Jeff Plect; Elaine Scales; Susan and Grant Thompson; Helen and Chaim Gilboa; Jean Boucher; Shirley and Al Cohen; Patricia Van Blokland; RCMP, Drugs & Organized Crime Social Club; and Ruth and Irving Aaron.

Sam Filer by Ruth and Irving Aaron.

Irving Greenberg by Melanie and Marcus Hotz; Robin Chemick and Norm Leckie; and Leon Leckie.

David Kirshenblatt by Cindy and Steven Poplove and Family; and Ruth and Irving Aaron.

Edie Koranyi by Sharon and Louis Goelman; and Melane & Marcus Hotz.

Stan Millstone by Leona and Bernie Ship; Barbara and Paul Armstrong; Beth Coviensky and Family; Helen and Chaim Gilboa; and Cindy and Steven Poplove and Family; Sue and Jack Feldberg; Renee Frzi Moses; Eric and Scott Miller; Gladys and John Greenberg; and Ricki and Barry Baker and Family.

Elizabeth Silver by The Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; Felice and Jeff Plect and Family; Margery and Lou Goldmaker; Ruth Silbert and Shannon Conway and Family; Donna and Moe Atallah; Spirit Creative; Bea Dubinsky; Rosemaria Decarlo; Giovanna and Giuseppe Panarotto; Suzanne and Giancarlo Panarotto; and Gladys and John Greenberg.

IN HONOUR OF:

Jack Baylin Wishing you a speedy and full recovery by Ruth and Irving Aaron.

Sid Bosloy Best wishes on your special birthday. May you celebrate many more happy and healthy ones by Roz and Lee Raskin; and Dorothy and Maurie Karp.

Norma and Phil Lazear Mazal Tov on the Bnei Mitzvah of your grandsons, Avi and Daniel. May you enjoy much nachas. All our love by Dorothy and Maurie Karp.

Ingrid and Gerry Levitz In appreciation and with thanks for the sentiments you expressed to me on the marriage of my granddaughter Shayna by Ann Bernick.

Mark Shore Mazal Tov to our son on the opening of your new business venture, Shore and Associates. Wishing you good luck and much love by Mom and Dad (Debi and David Shore).

Sara and Arnie Swedler Mazal Tov on the Bar and Bat Mitzvahs of your grandchildren by Ricki and Barry Baker and Family.

Muriel and Michael Wester Mazal Tov on your daughter's wedding by Rachel Gewurz and Monica.

Inez Zelikovitz Mazal Tov and best wishes on the occasion of your special birthday. May you celebrate many more in good health by Grace and Jim Hillel; Joel Diener; Ron Stein; Ruth and Irving Aaron; Shirley Halpern; Jacquelin Holzman; Lionel Metrick; Bernice Hochberg & Norma Silverstone; and Marcia and Barry Cantor.

R'FUAH SHEMA:

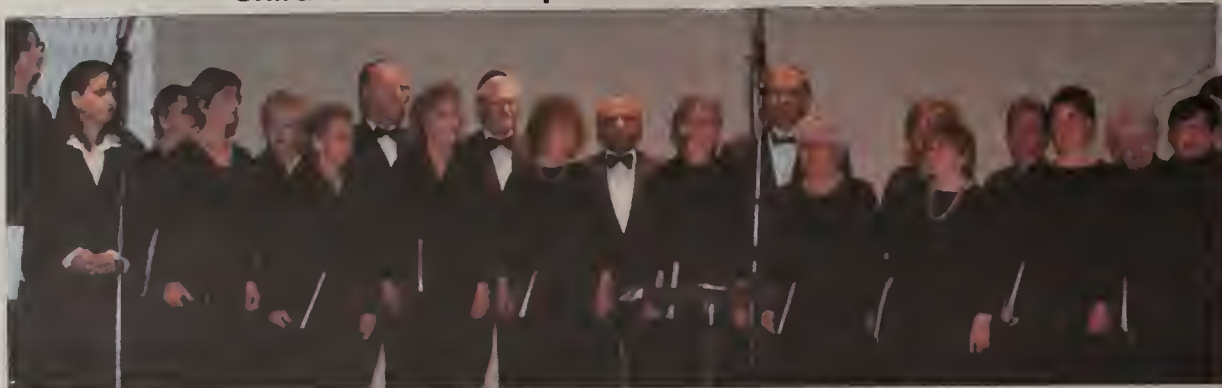
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Shira Ottawa Choir performs 'a musical mosaic'



Under the skilled baton of conductor Aviva Kolet, the Shira Ottawa choir returned to their home stage to perform an eclectic mix of music from various parts of the world, both Jewish and other cultures. The evening featured Broadway show tunes, traditional Hebrew and Yiddish repertoires, folksongs from Canada's east coast and a gospel number.

The choir, together with soloists Nava Lightstone, Aviva Kolet and accompanist Aviva Lightstone, garnered a standing ovation from an appreciative crowd. Shira Ottawa choir invites all those interested in joining for the 2007-08 season to call the SJCC at 613-798-9818, ext. 254.

(Photo: Dr. Richard Davies)

Archives founder honoured

Former Ottawa Jewish archivist Shirley Berman has received an award for "Outstanding Contribution to the Preservation of Ottawa Jewish History" from the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society (OJHS).

Berman is the driving force behind the creation of the OJHS and the Ottawa Jewish Archives (OJA).

Before the OJA were created, Berman began collecting records of

Jewish Ottawa and sending them to the National Archives for preservation.

The OJHS noted, "her foresight and perseverance resulted in the formation of the OJA" and "through Shirley's many presentations and exhibitions, brought the Archives into the consciousness of the public ... without her efforts there would be no Ottawa Jewish Archives."



Shirley Berman

Member of Parliament visits BSW youth group

By Rabbi David Rotenberg

As one parent remarked, it is not very often a politician would dedicate his evening to a group of kids too young to vote. However, recently, the teens and pre-teens of Beth Shalom West were fortunate to meet a member of parliament who was willing to do just that.

The synagogue welcomed Pierre Poilievre, MP for Nepean-Carleton, as a special guest speaker for a youth Melave Malka. Poilievre spoke at a similar BSW event last winter, and was requested back by popular demand from the youth.

When he was originally elected in June 2004, Poilievre, only 24 at the time, was the youngest MP in the history of Canada's Parliament. As such, he knows firsthand about following one's dreams and overcoming obstacles to succeed. He is also a dynamic speaker and has a wonderful sense of humour. All of this made him the perfect choice to address the youth group.

Pierre, as he told the kids to call him, shared a little bit of his background with the group. He discussed his history in politics and with the Conservative party, what led to him run for office and his election, as well as some of the hurdles he's had to overcome due to his young age and limited experience.

Poilievre delivered a truly inspiring message, urging the students to follow their dreams, not allowing anyone to tell them they're too young to succeed. He reminded the students to "bring themselves along" – never forgetting their Jew-



Pierre Poilievre

ish heritage or the values their parents and teachers passed on to them.

He opened the floor to questions and answers, of which the youth took full advantage. Many intelligent questions were asked, ranging from the implementation of the new Accountability Act to the proper pronunciation of his last name, and he was more than willing to thoroughly and honestly respond.

One student asked about his and the Conservative Party's stand on Israel. He explained some of the party's pro-Israel policies, and mentioned he has visited Israel twice. Much to the delight of those in attendance, he also said he considers himself a Zionist.

After the talk, everyone partook in pizza and snacks, providing an opportunity to socialize. Overall, everyone agreed the evening was an inspiring and enjoyable experience. It was a unique opportunity for students to meet their MP, and learn something at the same time.

Temple Israel students participate in P2K Chai Geshet program



The Temple Israel Grade 10 Confirmation class takes a break in Jerusalem. The students were in Israel as part of the Partnership 2000 Geshet Chal program, which partners schools in the Diaspora with schools in Israel. Temple Israel's partner school is Emek HaHula in the Galilee Panhandle (Ezba Galil), whose students came to Ottawa in December. The Temple teens stayed with their host families in the north and then travelled to the Negev and Jerusalem with their Israeli counterparts.

Reflections on a Mission

Trip to Israel filled with emotional highs

By Francie Greenspoon

I was a rare breed. At 53, I had never been to Israel. What I knew of the country was based on what others had told me and what I had read or heard in the news. I was excited about going to Israel, despite being somewhat apprehensive about leaving my family behind and travelling through a country rife with political unrest, a country at war for close to 60 years.

The community mission to Israel left April 21 and I was one among 36 participants. As is common, from what I now understand, the mission is an overwhelming seven- to 10-day experience filled with emotional highs and lows, political insight, growing friendships and camaraderie.

Our first night in Tel Aviv set the tone. We attended a Yom Hazikaron service for fallen soldiers. The program was filled with beautiful Israeli songs and recitations, all in Hebrew.

I understood not a word, but the teary eyes and silence of the more than 5,000 people gathered in Yitzhak Rabin Square to pay their respects translated volumes. There I was, sitting in the historic place where Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated on November 4, 1995, looking at a young, out-of-uniform Israeli soldier holding a machine gun in his lap as a woman would hold her purse.

We celebrated Yom Ha'Atzmaut at a picnic with local families from the picturesque town of Metulla in the Northern Galilee, just a stone's throw from the Lebanese border. I shared their food, exchanged stories and showed them pictures of my children. Metulla is twinned with Ottawa through the Partnership 2000 Geshar Chai program, which creates people-to-people partnerships. I rejoiced and danced alongside these people to the music of Israeli singing sensation David Broza, with Israeli, Palestinian and Hezbollah flags visibly blowing in the distance.

We visited an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) base, where I met a Yeshiva student from New York City-turned IDF soldier, serving his requisite three years in the army. When this articulate young man of 19 expressed his commitment to the army and Israel with such conviction, I was instantly embarrassed at my reticence to come to Israel.

"War is not fun. There is nothing glamorous about it. It can be very



(From left to right): Francie Greenspoon, Rachel Borer, Dan Greenberg, Sandra Zagon, Andrea Borer, Richard Levitan, Mitchell Bellman, Lenora Zelikovitz, Margo Sherman-Shabinsky, Jeanne Foot and Howard Cohen tour the Old City of Jerusalem.

boring. I would much rather be studying at the Yeshiva than serving here as a soldier," he said. "But I will do whatever it takes, take a bullet and die if I have to, if it means helping this country survive."

While on a tour of Nahariya Hospital, just six miles from the Lebanese border, I stood in a room devastated by a Katyusha rocket during last summer's 34-day war. Nahariya Hospital, renowned for its secure underground wing, filled 400 beds in that wing during the war and treated 2,000 patients for physical and psychological wounds.

Despite being targeted and under a constant barrage of rockets throughout the 34 days, the hospital's librarian, our tour guide, described feeling safer in the hospital than during her seven-minute drive to and from work each day. She described wondering if she should drive faster, slower or stop her car and run for cover if she heard a Katyusha overhead while en route.

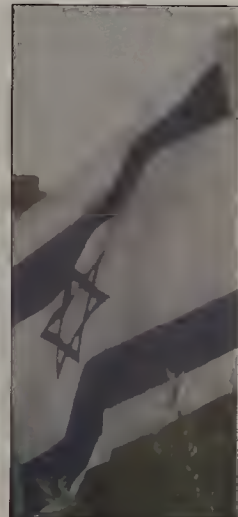
We visited Iris Barnea House, an arts centre for peace located in Cefar haNoar Ben-Shemen – a centre for Ethiopian and young Jewish immigrants from all over the world who work to develop leaders from within the Ethiopian congregation and other Israeli low income groups. We also met seniors whose lives had been enriched by the Joint Distribution Committee's (JDC) Supportive Community Project for the Elderly, which helps eliminate the need for elderly people to move from their homes as their ability to function declines.

We heard motivational speaker after motivational speaker. Israeli experts provided insightful political perspectives on the challenges Israel faces. Dr. Boaz Ganor, founder and executive director of the Institute for Counter-Terrorism, discussed how the IDF lacked a strategic plan against terrorism. Professor Reuven Hazan from Hebrew University, Jerusalem, told us what could happen if Israeli Prime Minister Olmert's centrist government is toppled because of the mishandling of the Lebanon war.

I navigated my way through the

Western Wall tunnels where ongoing excavations continue to unearth more history than one can fully grasp. I prayed at the Western Wall at sundown on Shabbat. I saw the snow-capped mountains of the Golan Heights and the infamous "fence" cutting a path through Jerusalem's unparalleled landscape, separating it from its adversary.

As a group, we recited the *She-hechiyanu* standing at the Hass promenade looking out at the magnificent Dome of the Rock. Tears came to my eyes as I walked through Yad Vashem listening to survivors retelling the horrors and



agony of their unspeakable loss. From cab drivers wearing kippahs to street beggars greeting me with *Shabbat Shalom*, each experience was remarkable.

Thirty-six of us in all, most of us relative strangers from varying backgrounds and levels of observance, shared something extraordinary together. From Israel's breathtaking landscape, to the resilience and vitality of its people, to a connection with the country's culture and history, it all took me by surprise.

Jews throughout the world have a homeland – a place that continues to fight for its right to exist and that none of us has the luxury of taking for granted.



On Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Mission participants sing along during the David Broza concert/picnic in Metulla. (Photo: Gustavo Rymberg)

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NOMINATIONS, SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE SELECTION COMMITTEE IN WRITING BY MONDAY, JUNE 4. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT JON BRAUN AT 613.798.9818 EXT. 267 OR JBRAUN@JCCOTTAWA.COM

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There's no resenting easy-to-make appetizers

I think there are two camps of appetizers.

The first are those requiring more work than they are worth. You know the ones I'm talking about. They require the fine motor skills of a surgeon to prepare. This type of hors d'oeuvre just causes resentment. The host resents all the effort and time it took to make them and the guests resent being unable to reciprocate and invite their hosts to their home as there is no way they could possibly compete. It's just bad vibes all around.

The second category requires no work at all. Pop open a jar of salsa and rip open a bag of tortilla chips. Or heat up some pita, put some store bought humus in a bowl and call it an appetizer. Even I have been guilty of doing this on numerous occasions.

This type of appetizer requires no thought or imagination and is less than inspiring. Your guests will not feel very welcome or special at all. Plus, this type of appetizer is so filling no one feels hungry when dinner is served. So then you just feel resentful your guests filled up on appetizers



Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

and just picked at the dinner you worked so hard to prepare.

See, more resentment building up.

There has to be a middle ground somewhere. Appetizers requiring a minimal amount of work, or that can be done several days ahead of the party, would be ideal. Here are some of my favourite ways of making my guests feel special. These recipes are guaranteed to have you enjoying, rather than resenting, having friends or family over. These two recipes are perfect and not too filling to enjoy with a glass of wine or cocktail before dinner.

Spiced Nuts

Makes 3 cups

These spiced nuts are wonderful served on their own as a snack, or sprinkled in salads. Do not attempt making these on a very humid day. They will not dry out properly and will be very sticky after baking.

3 cups pecan halves
1/4 cup sugar
4 teaspoons kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper (or more if you like it really spicy)
1 egg white

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Spread pecan halves on large baking sheet and toast in oven for 5-7 minutes, until nuts are fragrant. Remove from oven and allow nuts to cool completely.

In a small bowl, mix together sugar, salt, black and cayenne peppers and set aside.

In a medium-sized bowl, lightly beat egg white with a whisk until frothy. Add cooled pecans and toss until evenly coated. Add spice mixture and toss until well coated.

Spread evenly on parchment lined baking sheet and bake in preheated oven for about 10 minutes.

Remove from oven and allow to cool thoroughly.

Break apart nut clusters and store in airtight container at room temperature.

Parmesan Fricos

Makes 1 dozen

A frico is basically cooked cheese. It originated in the Friuli region of Italy in the 14th century. Back then, they heated a pan over glowing coals and sprinkled thinly sliced cheese into the pan and cooked until melted and bubbling. The cheese was then removed and allowed to cool and the result was a crisp cheese wafer. While the method of cooking may have changed over the years, the delicious crispy result has not.

Fricos can be made with any type of grated cheese. I have done them with parmesan, asiago, manchego and cheddar. If you are making cheddar fricos, increase the cooking time by 1-2 minutes, as it tends to be an oilier cheese. Fricos are delicious served whole as a snack with a glass of wine or broken into smaller pieces and used as croutons on salad or soup.

4 ounces parmesan cheese (about 1 cup grated)
cornmeal for sprinkling on baking sheet

Adjust oven racks to low and middle positions and heat oven to 425 degrees F.

Using the largest holes on a 4-sided grater coarsely shred enough cheese to measure 1 cup.

Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper. Sprinkle a teaspoon of cornmeal over each baking sheet. Spoon 2 scant tablespoons of cheese onto the baking sheet and spread into a 3 inch round, so that the cheese is more or less in a single layer. Repeat, keeping the cheese discs about 1 inch apart. You will be able to get about 6 discs on each baking sheet.

Bake until fricos stop bubbling, about 7-8 minutes. If fricos seem to be browning unevenly, switch position of baking sheets halfway through baking time. You can tell when they are done when the wafers are golden in colour and lacy in appearance.

Cool fricos for 2 minutes on baking sheet, then carefully transfer with a metal spatula to a wire rack to cool completely.

Fricos can be made 3 days ahead and kept, layered between wax paper, in an airtight container at room temperature.

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Readers and advertisers are advised the next edition of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* will be published on Monday, June 18, 2007.

The deadline date is Wednesday, May 30, 2007.

Surviving underground: truth more amazing than fiction

The Secret of Priest's Grotto
A Holocaust Survival Story
By Peter Lane Taylor
With Christos Nicola
Kar-Ben Publishing 2007
64 pp. Ages 10 and up

More than 63 years ago, 38 malnourished Jews, ranging in age from a two-year-old boy to a 75-year-old grandmother, crawled out of an extensive gypsum cave system in Western Ukraine known as Priest's Grotto (Popowa Yama). After 344 days underground the extended Stermer family and a few others emerged into blinding sunshine.

For all of them, it was the first time outside the caves during daylight hours. For most, it was their first time outdoors since seeking the safety of the caves on May 5, 1943. It was the second time they took refuge in a cave and the second time they proved their best chance of surviving the Nazi occupation of their homeland and roundup of Jews was by staying together.

In 1963, American speleologist (scientific cave explorer) Christos Nicola made his first trip to Priest's Grotto. His guides took him to a section of the caves called Khatki "little cottage" and showed him evidence the caves had once been lived in. His guides told a vague story of local Jews hiding during the Holocaust. Try as he might, Nicola was unable to learn more at the time. But his interest was piqued.

Although he returned to Priest's Grotto several times over the next few years, Nicola's attempts to learn more about the Jews led nowhere. Then, on a return trip in 1997, he met Yosef Zimels, a local caver with an amazing story. Zimels said, in 1991, he had led a Jewish family from Canada to the sinkhole entrance of the Priest's Grotto. The family claimed they, and other Jewish families, lived in the caves during the last two years of the Second World War.

That news galvanized Nicola. He realized he should be searching for Holocaust survivors. After trying other venues, he turned to the Internet. It took more than four years for his posting to bear fruit. When it did, he and his "caver" friend, writer Peter Lane Taylor, met some wonderful Canadians and heard one of the most incredible survival stories ever.

It is incredible for many reasons, but, to cavers, primarily because they knew the world record for any individual endur-



Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

ing conditions of extreme underground deprivation was 205 days. That record had been set in 1972 by a Frenchman supported by sophisticated equipment, the best food and constant scientific monitoring.

How could an inexperienced, unequipped, frightened group of Jews survive underground for 344 days? Faced with extreme weather, isolation, darkness, disorientation, starvation, and the constant knowledge of being hunted by the Nazis and willing local helpers, what kept them going?

The astonishing answer to these questions and its amazing confirmation by evidence found in further explorations of the Priest's Grotto in 2003 are the two gripping story lines presented in *The Secret of Priest's Grotto*. Some of the writing is complex, especially the story of the 2003 expedition. But it is a true adventure story, well worth pursuing.

To ease the path for readers, the two story lines are presented in alternating sections on colour-coded pages. White and, occasionally, black pages describe the 2003 expedition and other sidebar type data. Ecu-coloured pages tell the story of the 38 survivors and their unwavering determination to defy and outlast Hitler. Ecu-coloured pages with red print are direct quotes from a memoir written in Yiddish by Esther Stermer, the family matriarch, and privately published in English in 1973 titled *We Fight to Survive*.

Readers are also helped by the magnificent photographs adorning most pages. The Montreal-based Stermer family is lucky to have family photos from both pre- and post-Second World War, which they shared with the authors. And for a non-caver such as me, the stage-setting coloured landscape and underground photographs were worth their



From *The Secret of Priest's Grotto*

weight in gold.

Exciting summer reading doesn't get much better than *The Secret of Priest's Grotto*. When the motion picture and television documentary versions come out, don't miss them. In this case, truth is definitely more amazing than fiction.

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Come a little closer and I will whisper to you about one such ritual that occurred in our family home when we lived in poorer circumstances, above a store on Yonge Street in Toronto.

You see, my mother was very conscious of the need to clean and would often enlist us in scrubbing the hardwood with turpentine and steel wool. When all the dust was cleared away, we gave the floor a new coat of wax. My parents never heard of shellac and I can only hope there was never any on our floors. Otherwise, we would have destroyed it.

My mother often complained about not being able to invite people over more often. The rooms were not painted, the dishes were cracked and our surroundings were shabby. The furniture was rudimentary and old. My brother and I quickly destroyed fabrics and paint jobs in any case. We used to use the couch as a trampoline and would do headsprings and somersaults onto it. When my parents sat on it, they would complain the salesman had sold them one without any springs.

My brother and I kept silent.

A few walls had obvious dry wall replacements poorly

integrated into the surroundings. There were mice in the basement, which my mother pursued fiercely with mouse-traps, poison and a cat she tried to bathe like a dog.

But there was dirt everywhere, impossible to eliminate. I was black from head to foot when I came home in the evenings. I was shocked to discover later, when I bathed my own children, that the water was still more or less transparent. Had I done a poor job in cleaning them?

In our apartment above the store, the dust and dirt from outside were everywhere no matter how often we washed. But the biggest shock and the greatest commotion occurred because, living in row housing, we were periodically invaded by cockroaches too. When we had the cat, she would eat a few, but this was nothing compared to the hordes we felt surrounded by.

When the bugs moved into our building, they would be seen in the bathroom or in the kitchen. This was the time for our cockroach hunt.

My mother, brother and I would stand guard outside the bathroom, each holding a slipper or a shoe. One would enter the bathroom and spray RAID throughout, especially in all the nooks and crannies. The sprayer then would rush out and take up his or her position on guard. Within minutes, the first cockroaches would start to come out of their holes and the guards would swing into action trying to squash them as they scurried out along the wall or on the ceiling.

"There he goes! Get him! He's getting away! Got him!"



Humour me, please

Rubin Friedman

There is nothing as satisfying as crunching a cockroach with your slipper, especially when you have to go after five of them at once.

"Whap! Whap! Whap! Whap! Whap! Damn missed him! Whap! Got him!"

After about 15 minutes or so of this frenzied activity with all of us scurrying around the hall a little like the bugs we were chasing, there was a return to calm.

The sense of accomplishment after a successful hunt was enormous. We were exhilarated and laughing.

"Did you see that big one? I got him just as he was getting away."

"There were so many of them; they were everywhere."

"But we got them all. We got them good."

Fortunately, they came back soon after and we got to do it all over again.

This hunt was sometimes the most fun we had together in a month. Yet, if I told others about it, they gave me peculiar looks and laughed behind their hands.

So please be kind and keep this story to yourself.

Tevye a tragic figure in Sholem Aleichem play

I recently watched the 1930s Yiddish film *Tevye der Milkhike* starring Maurice Schwartz. By the production standards of the 1930s, the film is nothing to speak of. But Schwartz's performance as Tevye is something else. He has the commanding presence of a great actor recreating a stage role based on the writings of Sholem Aleichem in the final New York City years of his life.

Aleichem published the first of eight stories about Tevye and his daughters in 1894. In 1916, after a string of financial disappointments from writing plays for the New York Yiddish theatre, he completed a script based on two of the Tevye stories. The play was only produced posthumously.

By the 1920s, Schwartz and his Yiddish Art Theater had made it the definitive portrayal of Tevye.

The dates are important. Aleichem wrote his Tevye stories in the near aftermath of the wave of pogroms begun in the 1880s. He wrote them using bitter, black humour – his Tevye is essentially a tragic hero, whose consolation is his faith. His apparent quirk (talking aloud to God as a familiar acquaintance) is not a comic theatrical device, but is tinged with desperation, with a feeling human hatred and callousness is so great only God will listen to one's anguish.

Aleichem's Tevye stories resonated against the immediate experience of his early readers, whether still in the oppressive Russian Empire, or in the countries to which the refugees had fled.

In 1916, when he wrote his play, this experience was reinforced by the horrors of war involving close relatives whose homes were in the path of the battles on the Eastern Front. Within a few years of his death came the great wave of pogroms in Ukraine, the most brutal slaughter of Jews prior to the Holocaust.

Fiddler on the Roof's manicured version of Tevye's troubles has done good work for Jewish community relations. It is often used now (as is the *Diary of Anne Frank*) as a vehicle for high school productions. But its happy peasant dances convey little of the reality Aleichem reflected in the black humour of his Tevye stories.

In contrast, Maurice Schwartz's movie version, and the play it mirrors, does precisely that in a way that simply could not play to the tolerant, feel-good, liberal America of the 1960s and 1970s. The picture of the Ukrainian peasants is savage satire; Fedke, whom Chava marries, is some kind of sport, an oddity (in contrast to the peasants as played in the movie). Tevye, his wife Golda and his family are seen in contrast as dignified, decent folks, trying to get along with their neighbours, but ultimately betrayed.

An essay Aleichem wrote in 1898 leaves no doubt this was his view. In *Why do the Jews need a land of their own?*



Global Shtetl The Jewish Internet

Saul Silverman

he writes: "The Jewish Congress in Basel drew the right conclusions about the position of our brothers throughout the world, and considering these conclusions we learned three things:

1. They hate us everywhere, in the whole world.
2. The situation is so bitter and black that it can't go on any longer.

3. We must find a way, but one that will work."

Tevye, admired for his stoical endurance, is not the model Aleichem presents for survival. He strongly asserts (following Pinsker's Zionist work, *Auto-Emancipation*) that Jews can only save themselves through action; no one else will do it for them, no matter how well disposed they may be at times.

The essay advocates Jewish migration to Eretz Israel (Aleichem was an early Zionist, having joined Chovevei Tzion in 1888). But he concedes most Jews who decide to act will migrate to America.

This, in fact, is what Sholem Aleichem eventually did, with his family, in 1914.

Websites

Wikipedia life of Sholem Aleichem: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sholom_Aleichem

Sholem Aleichem home page: <http://www.sholom-aleichem.org> [hyphen intended]

Chabad commentary on "If I Were a Rich Man": <http://www.chabad.org/library/article.asp?AID=3036>

Maurice Schwartz's Tevye: <http://www.films42.com/columns/TEVYE.asp>

Richard Dreyfuss reads "Hodel": http://legacy.kcrw.com/jewish/fj_audio.html (click on second reading).

Essay: http://www.sholom-aleichem.org/why_jews_need2.htm

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In memory of:

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Speedy recovery to:

Ken Kavanat by Estelle and Sol Gunner.

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Birthday wishes to:

Leema Magidson on her 90th birthday by Daphne and Stanley Arron.

In memory of:

Gouldie Abramson by Daphne and Stanley Arron.

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In memory of:

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RTuah Sh'lema to:

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Stanley Kershman on his appointment to the Bench by Sharon and Paul Finn and family.

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John Greenberg by A.L., Anne and Leanne Smith.

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Freda Florence, a dear aunt by A.L., Anne and Leanne Smith.

ABE AND SYLVIA FREEMAN FAMILY FUND

Birthday wishes to:

David Freeman on his 50th birthday by the Zunder family, by Label and Leona Silver, by George and Tybe Marcus, by Stephen and Jocelyne Greenberg; and by Mildred Freeman.

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Congratulations to:

Helen and Rick Zipes on their son Kyle's graduation from Law School by Roz and Steve Fremeth.

Helaine and Jack Gould on their daughter Iliana's graduation from Dental School by Roz and Steve Fremeth.

Dodie and Biam Potelchin on their son Micah getting his MBA by Roz and Steve Fremeth.

Rhoda and Joe Levitan on their son Yoni's graduation by Roz and Steve Fremeth.

Lois and Jeff Eisen on their son Michael's graduation by Roz and Steve Fremeth.

Marjorie and Michael Feldman on their daughter-in-law's graduation by Roz and Steve Fremeth.

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Birthday wishes to:

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Gouldie Abramson by Bev, Bryan, Alison and Rob Glube.

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Ruth Tal on her special birthday by Bev and Irving Gershkovich and Mary Goldberg.

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Irving Greenberg by Saul and Edna Goldfarb.

GILBERT AND BESS GREENBERG MEMORIAL FUND

Congratulations to:

Roger Greenberg on receiving the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award by Sally and Elliott Levitan.

Continued on page 24

FOUNDATION DONATIONS

NATHAN AND SARAH GREENBERG MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:
Irving Greenberg by Jon, David, Jeremy and Jennifer Waser; by Hy and Ruth Calot; and by Dorothy and Ben Greenberg.

RHEA AND JEFF HOCHSTADTER FAMILY FUND

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Renee Greenberg on her special birthday by Rhea, Jeff, Elana and Lorne Hochstadter.

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Eddie Koranyi by Vera and Leslie Klein and family.
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Paula and Manny Agulnik on the birth of their grand-daughter by Vera and Leslie Klein and family.

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Dorothy and Hy Hymes on their 55th wedding anniversary by Blossom Read

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Mazal Tov to:
Sarah and Arnie Swedler on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Josh McCarthy by Cheryl and André Igby and family.
Joshua Finn on receiving his Bachelor of Journalism with Honours Degree and being awarded the Queen's Graduate Award by Cheryl and André Igby and family.
Davina Finn on her graduation from High School and being awarded the Canadian Millennium Scholarship by Cheryl and André Igby and family.

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Birthday wishes to:
Lyon Gilbert on his 60th birthday by Anita and Mike Roodman.

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Sylvia Kershman on her son Stanley's appointment as Justice of the Superior Court of Ontario by Sally and Elliott Levitan.

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Continued good health to:
Gerry Cammy by Isabel and Norman Lesh.

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Moris Neuman's mother by Valerie Eisen, Mark and Lorne Kostove.
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Mazal Tov to:
Miriam and Edmond Sussman on Tammy's PhD by Yvonne and Harvey Litwick and family.

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In memory of:
Irving Greenberg by Roslyn and Arnie Kimmel.
Mr. Laufer by Roslyn and Arnie Kimmel and family.

Birthday wishes to:

Leema Magidson on her special birthday by Bev, Michael and Nathaniel Rosenstock; by Shirley and Paul Selter; by Trudy and Sheldon Wiseman and family; by Howard and Janice Spinner and family; by Bernie and Donna Dolansky; by Freda Litwick; and by Elaine Litwick, Harris Stein and Julia Schwartz.

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Ian Melzer by Shirley Steinberg.

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Helen and Rick Zipes on their son Kyle's graduation from Law School by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz.
In memory of:
Peler Stone's mother by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz.
Thank you to:
Jacie Levinson by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz.

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In memory of:
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Good health and happiness to:
Freda Litwick in her new home by Millie and Steve Mirsky.

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Jack Baylin by Helen Bloom.

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Stella and Norman Beck on the marriage of their grandson Yoram to Ayala Berman by Harvey Morin.
Irit and Harry Beck on the marriage of their son Yoram to Ayala Berman by Harvey Morin.

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In memory of:
Goldie Abramson by Evelyn and Norman Potechin.

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Birthday wishes to:
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In memory of:
Irving Greenberg by Berel and Alti Rodal.
Juan Monson by Berel and Alti Rodal.
Jonathan Stern by Berel and Alti Rodal.

Continued on page 25

*The Chair, Officers and Board of Directors
of the
Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation
cordially invites all fund holders and members of
the community to attend the*

33rd Annual General Meeting

being held on

Tuesday, June 26th, 2007

Doors Open: 7:00 pm Call to Order: 7:30 pm
Dessert Reception to follow proceedings

Thank you to outgoing Chair, Gregory Sanders

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Jonathan Ross on graduating with a MD/PhD by Helen and Abe Fleming.
In memory of:
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Lottie Suk by Fran and Mort Ross.

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In memory of:
Irving Greenberg by Rhoda, Jeff, Howard and Sara Miller.

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In memory of:
Anita Bodner by Elayne, Wesley, Adam, Joshua and Michael Schachter.
Ron Silver by Elayne and Wesley Schachter.
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Judy Aranoff's father by Elayne and Wesley Schachter and family.

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In memory of:
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Speedy recovery to:
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Mazel Tov to:
Laurie and Lorne Shusterman on Zak making aliyah by Marilyn and Tom Hicks.

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Birthday wishes to:
Sue Slack on her special birthday by Lea and Yitzhak Kalin.
In memory of:
Goldie Abramson by Joy and Seymour Mender and family; and by Sharon and David Appotvie and family.

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Birthday wishes to:
Laura Spergel by Rose and Morrie Konik.
Speedy recovery to:
Evelyn Potechin by Laura and Gordon Spergel.
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In memory of:
Elizabeth Silver by Mark and Maria Spergel.

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In memory of:
Jonathan Stern by Sheila and Gary Trifan; by Roslyn and Anie Kimmel and family; and by Glora and Michael Schachter.
Anniversary wishes to:
Doris and Richard Stern on their 25th wedding anniversary by Blossom Read.

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Good health and happiness to:
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Speedy recovery to:
Garry Cammy by Gail and Stephen Victor.
In memory of:
Goldie Abramson by Gail and Stephen Victor.

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Irving Greenberg by Ruth and Joe Viner.
Goldie Abramson by Ruth and Joe Viner.

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Evelyn Potechin by Miriam and Louis Weiner.
In memory of:
Edith Nathanson by Miriam and Louis Weiner.
Goldie Abramson by Miriam and Louis Weiner.

MILDRED AND PERCY WEINSTEIN ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:
Irving Greenberg by Millie Weinstein.
Birthday wishes to:
Sandra Levinson on her special birthday by Millie Weinstein.
Abe Bookman by Millie Weinstein.

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In memory of:
Peter Liebel by Debi, Neil, Josh and Adam Zaret.

ZIPES KARANOFKY FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

R' Leah Sh' Lemah to:
Evelyn Potechin by Rick and Helen Zipes.
In memory of:
Deena Cramer by Rick and Helen Zipes.

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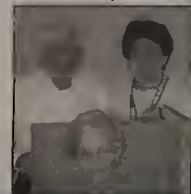
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AIR CANADA

Father and son bond listening to Zukerman and the NAC orchestra

Once in a while, we here at Knish like to give our column a taste of sophistication and class.

Paul needed a unique gift for his dad's birthday. Somehow handing dad your Rogers cell phone bill when you far exceeded the hours allotted doesn't cut it anymore.

Last year's birthday present fiasco, a gift certificate for a spa treatment, went down in flames as Dr. Telner felt he "just wasn't that type of guy." It's amazing how Paul can wear a pink bathrobe, but his father won't accept a day at the spa. Some things just aren't genetic!

Paul wanted something to create a night of bonding. Yes, a strip club came to mind, but we needed a Jewish spin. Also, we don't know any Jewish strippers in town, besides that one night we were a little low on cash flow and had to perform at a club in Hull (search YouTube for the video). Paul's dad loves Costco, but already owns everything it sells.

The gift needed to return Paul and his dad to the good old days of throwing around a football or playing basketball. These memories, unfortunately, got replaced by quality

moments such as setting up patio furniture in the backyard, bickering over why Paul didn't turn off the lights or why Paul left a plate of mustard in the sink overnight (details available upon request). This birthday gift experience had to be special.

From the Rolling Stones to one of his favourite classical conductor/musicians, Pinchas Zukerman, Dr. Telner is a music lover. Paul's idea was to get tickets to see Zukerman and the NAC orchestra perform. With Byron's help (who is still sour about paying for all of Paul's eBay purchases), the NAC generously accommodated two great seats to the Mark Motors Audi Signature Series where Zukerman would be conducting and performing.

This would be a first for Paul, whose idea of a classy night out is eating chili with Byron at their favourite restaurant, Dick's Diner on Merivale Road, and driving home with the windows down!

When Dr. Telner's birthday arrived, Paul presented him with a gift bag. At first, it led to negative flashbacks of the spa gift. Inside instead was a print out of the performance they would attend together. The tickets were being held at the box office. Paul's dad was thrilled, especially having been informed they might get to meet Zukerman.

On the night of the performance, Dr. Telner left work early to get prepared. He wore a nice sports jacket with a black shirt. For some unknown reason, he left the top button undone, revealing a glimpse of his chest. This left his wife and son feeling very confused. Was this his new look? The chesty look? He claimed the top button didn't work, but Paul didn't buy that.

Paul stuck with his classic style. He wore his pink and black sports jacket, jeans, an orange Wheaties T-shirt and a multicolour toque. As soon as Paul's dad saw his son's outfit, he recommended they take separate cars and hoped they weren't sitting together!

They drove downtown (in the same car). What's the number one topic of conversation between a father and son when attending an event? Parking! To Jews, getting a parking spot is a greater priority than a good seat or performance. They found a great spot and headed inside. As they mingled through the NAC foyer, Paul got odd looks from everyone. They may have thought he was the valet guy.

Paul then spotted his aunt and uncle in the crowd. Dressed elegantly and feeling fully relaxed and comfortable in a crowd of their peers, it was as if two worlds had collided. The NAC is their one sacred oasis away from Paul. But it was violated that night!

Paul quickly walked towards them. One glance at



Paul Telner



Byron Pascoe

Have
a
Knish

Paul's hat and his aunt and uncle were out of sight. Suddenly, it turned into a high speed chase. Were they trying to get away from Paul? Paul ran through a crowd of suits, ducked under glasses of expensive wine, jumped over someone's walker and finally caught them. They had a nice chat, but Paul's relatives kept asking to see his ticket to confirm they weren't sitting together. They were also considering alerting security.

Paul and his dad went into the auditorium and found their excellent seats. As the orchestra tuned their instruments, Paul's dad remarked it sounded like Paul's high school band when they were actually playing a full piece. Paul took that as a compliment. The orchestra brilliantly performed Bach's Violin Concerto Number 2 in E major, Schoenberg's Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night) and Schumann's Symphony Number 4.

The crowd was mesmerized by the sounds and beauty of the talent that is Zukerman and NAC orchestra. Zukerman is world renowned and, that night, the Telners were taken away by the stellar performance, which ended with thunderous applause.

Afterwards, they went backstage to shake Zukerman's hand and take photos. This was a big moment. Paul's dad looked thrilled to meet him. What a birthday gift! As the picture was being taken, Paul's dad had a big smile and wondered if Zukerman would validate his parking.

They told Zukerman what a great performance it was, and then said thank you and goodbye to him and the terrific NAC staff.

The Telners headed to Chinatown for some delicious food at Jadeland. They also met the restaurant's chef, who wasn't as eloquent as Zukerman, but made a mean won ton soup!

In the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, we sometimes forget what it was like to play catch or just share a few laughs with your father.

This birthday gift was more than just a great performance; it was a night of bonding for John Telner and son Paul.

"Happy birthday Dad. I love ya and, now, if you'll excuse me, I think I have to go turn off a light I left on downstairs."

For Knish merchandise, visit www.cafepress.com/haveaknish. More info coming soon!



Dr. John Telner (centre) celebrates his birthday with an evening at the NAC courtesy of his son Paul (right). Pinchas Zukerman performed and conducted the orchestra in the Mark Motors Audi Signature Series.

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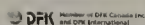


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La-la-latkes and finders, kippers: music, Shelley Posen-style

Every generation has its musical parodists. The most famous of the 20th century were the sophisticated, classical duo of Gilbert & Sullivan; the mathematician-cum-pianist and satirist, Tom Lehrer; the incredibly successful Weird Al Yankovic. Now, Ottawans, there is our own Shelley Posen.

MENORAH

By Shelley Posen
2007

<http://www.shelleyposen.com/>

Remember Allan Sherman? The Jewish parodist, popular in the '60s, took old folk tunes and rewrote them with a Jewish slant. His most famous song would have to be *Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah* about his nightmarish summer camp experience. (It was, strangely enough, translated into Swedish and adopted as Sweden's own.) Well, Shelley Posen's songs remind me of Sherman's. They have the same flavour, although they're more musical.

This third and latest CD showcases some of Posen's best. They take toe-tapping tunes or solemn melodies and weave through them lyrics that are smart, original, witty, sometimes touching, and often comical. Oh, and did I mention comfort-food and very Jewish?

Take the first cut, for example, *Dim Sum or One in a Minyan*. The premise: a Chassid is in dire need of a minyan – the minimum number of 10 male adult Jews necessary for a communal religious prayer service. So where does he go to find them? To a Chinese restaurant, of course!

As the Chassid says to one of the diners: "You may eat *trayf* (non-kosher food) and *khazeray* (junk), but that doesn't mean you don't qualify." It's a very funny song, inspired by a CBC radio call-in show that had asked about the connection between Jews and egg rolls, and was answered by an Orthodox Jew who called in to say that he often headed to a Chinese restaurant near his shul when he needed to find that tenth man for a minyan.

Posen's inspiration has come from artists like Cole Porter and Irving Berlin, Alan J. Lerner and Tom Lehrer, Michael Flanders and Dave Frishberg, and even Paul McCartney. And so you get songs like the engaging *Everyone Loves Shabbas But The Chickens* with the familiar bars of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *Colonel Bogey's March*, and *Stars and Stripes Forever* as its musical threads. Or songs like the foot-stompin', rockin' *Cholent*. Or the Jimmy Buffet-style *Shepherd*. But you also get songs like the solemn *Ani Adam*. Posen's pleasing baritone provides the constant in this CD song buffet.

Menorah was preceded by *Manna* (2003) and, while Posen is usually backed up by a coterie of talented musicians, he decided to perform all of the vocals and harmonies on *Manna* himself to ensure anyone Orthodox could listen to it. It, too, features some memorable songs, such as the klezmer-inspired *Four More Kashes*, with its vibrant accordion, clarinet, fiddle and mandolin; or *The Bal Shem's Soup*, with Posen's own catchy lyrics sung to Arthur Sullivan's music.

Posen's lyrics are the stuff of fine comedy and commentary. Yet the music is just as important as the words. That's another thing that makes his CDs so engaging: they are very musical and feature top-notch musicians.

There's bass-playing Dennis Pendrith, who's been around the Canadian folk scene for years; producer Paul Mills, who also plays guitar; and many others on piano, trombone,



Music Beat

Kinneret Globerman

accordion, banjo, percussion and vocals. Although Posen creates the tunes, the musicians often develop them as per his instruction. For example, if Posen wants a klezmer feel to a song, he'll enlist the band members of Beyond the Pale, and they'll compose their arrangements on the spot.

While the compositions are Jewish-themed, some peppered with Yiddish and Hebrew words, Posen says his songs are popping up in the repertoires of various non-Jewish performers.

His song about the end of the Newfoundland fishery, *No More Fish, No Fishermen* is sung in concert by folk legends Lou Killen, Helen Schneyer, and Gordon Bok, his Cole Porter-inspired *Having a Drink with Jane* has been recorded by Eve Goldberg and Jane Voss and is on play-lists of radio programs in the U.S., Canada and Australia.

It seems Posen has always been singing. The Toronto-born curator of Canadian Folklife at the Canadian Museum of Civilization has been a folk music lover and singer all his life.

His experiences are all grist for his folk music mill. He lived for 18 months

in an Ottawa Valley village, for example, studying Irish-Canadian singing traditions for his doctorate in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania. That's how his CD *The Old Songs' Home* came about. It's a mixture of Ottawa Valley folk tunes and original compositions. All of Posen's CDs offer copious notes on the songs.

Posen's CDs are available at the Ottawa Folklore Centre, Compact Music, the SJCC, and from his website. If you'd like to hear him in person, he will be performing on Monday, June 11, at Library and Archives Canada (395 Wellington Street), a benefit concert for SJCC's Creative Connections and Florence Melton School.



Shelley Posen



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Corner is courtesy of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. All beneficiary agencies are invited to list their volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunities

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

... is looking for help in the following areas:

- **DESPERATELY NEEDED:** drivers who will deliver kosher meals. Weekly or monthly. Your choice. Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays.
- **MORE DRIVERS** are required to help seniors get to their medical appointments. If you can even offer a couple of hours a month, please call.
- **GUTTEN TOG PROGRAM** ... Connect with a Jewish senior living in a long-term care facility. Visit once a week, once a month!
- Interested in going out for a coffee/chat and/or playing Gin Rummy with a Yiddish- or French-speaking gentleman recently back in Canada? Gregarious, outgoing and lives in Craig Henry. Great opportunity to practise another language.
- Could you accompany/drive a Walkey area senior who loves movies, bingo and other outings? Afternoons/evenings would work for her.
- The Shalom Bayit Program (to prevent violence against Jewish women) is currently seeking volunteers to sit on its Committee. Interested? Please contact Sarah Caspi at 613-722-2225 ext. 246.
- Could you drive and accompany an Alta Vista male to a Tuesday 5-hour program at the SJCC?
- Alta Vista area senior female would be thrilled with a reliable person who could take her out of her four walls once a week.
- Russian-speaking seniors need your help to improve their English skills. No teaching background required. A couple of hours per week in the Lincoln Fields and Kanata areas.
- Do you have a special talent? Come share it at our next celebration, senior programs or a monthly luncheon.

Angela Berkeley is waiting to hear from you at 722-2225, ext. 304.

THE BESS AND MOE GREENBERG FAMILY HILLEL LODGE

Did you know the Lodge runs programs every day? One morning or afternoon ... Why not volunteer?

• Attention university & high school students ... On your summer break? Our recreation department could always use some extra help ... Gain volunteer hours for community service requirement. Duties can include: accompanying residents to and from programs; assisting during programs, i.e., handing out refreshments; helping residents participate; helping with set-up; being a friendly visitor, making someone's day a little more special. Activities include performances, bingo, baking, birthday parties, lectures, outings, Friday morning Oneg Shabbas & much more. Afternoon programs are regularly scheduled between 1:30 and 3:30 pm. Choose your time, day and program! One morning or afternoon a week, or just once a month, will greatly enhance life at the Lodge!

• Reception & administrative help Weekdays assisting with clerical and reception duties.

• Who doesn't love BINGO? Monday evening BINGO needs more volunteers ... Every second week from 7:00 to 8:15 pm, come lend a hand at this very popular event!

• Entertainers ... Got a talent? Performers are welcome to apply and be enjoyed by all!

A little time goes a long way at the Lodge!

For a registration and orientation appointment.

Please call Cheryl Cogan, Co-ordinator of Volunteers, 728-3900 ext. 191, or email cherylc@hillel-ltc.com

Office Hours: Mon., Tues & Thurs. 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, Wed. 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm.

Students welcome (please note children under the age of 14 require adult accompaniment)

WHAT'S GOING ON

May 28 to June 17, 2007

For a detailed listing
visit www.jewishottawa.org



TUESDAY, MAY 29

The Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program, University of Ottawa, presents a free Yiddish song workshop with singer Janie Resplitz, Simard Hall 125, 60 University Private, uOttawa, 2:00 pm.

4th annual Israeli Film Festival, *The First Israeli in Space*, a documentary, about Israel's first astronaut Ilan Ramon. Special guests: director Neil Weisbord, Canadian astronaut Dr. Steve MacLean. Reception to follow, Canada Science and Technology Museum, 1857 St. Laurent, 7:00 pm.

Agudath Israel Congregation, AGM, 1400 Coldrey, 7:30 pm.

CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

Jun 1 ☆ 8:26 pm
Jun 8 ☆ 8:31 pm
Jun 15 ☆ 8:35 pm
Jun 22 ☆ 8:37 pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

JFS, Pathways to Employment Lunch and Learn Sessions 2007, Advertising, Promotion and Sales – an entrepreneurial workshop, 255 Carling, Suite 301, noon.

The Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge Annual General Meeting, 10 Nadolny Sachs Private, 7:00 pm.

THURSDAY, MAY 31

The Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program, University of Ottawa, presents a free Yiddish film screening (English subtitles), *Green Fields/Griene felder*, Simard Hall 224, 60 University Private, uOttawa, 2:00 pm.

AJA 50+ AGM, 3:15 pm.
4th annual Israeli Film Festival, *Sweet Mud*, winner best feature film, Berlin International Film Festival 2007, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington, 7:00 pm.

Rabbi & Mrs. Hayyim Yaakov & Yehudis Bulka Memorial Satellite Torah Study Program, Machzikei

Hadas, 2310 Virginia, 9:00 pm.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Walkathon, 8:30 am registration. Ottawa Hadassah-WIZO Tea in honour of Buddy Kizeli, home of Gina and Howard Grant, 2:00 pm. Info: 613-521-9092.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

The Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program, University of Ottawa, presents a free Yiddish film screening (with English subtitles), *Mamele*, Simard Hall 224, 60 University Private, uOttawa, 2:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

"The Original," an evening of wine and art, featuring the art of Rabbi Elie Benzaquen and Janet Agulnik, includes lecture on "Torah and Art" by Rabbi Benzaquen, Agudath Israel, 1400 Coldrey, 6:30 pm.

Jewish Federation of Ottawa, AGM, 7:00 pm.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

JFS, Pathways to Employment Lunch and Learn Sessions 2007, The Business Plan – an employment workshop, 255 Carling, Suite 301, 12:00 pm.

4th annual Israeli Film Festival, *Three Mothers*, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington, 7:00 pm.

The Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program, University of Ottawa, free lecture on the Yiddish theatre by Beth Kaplan, author of *Finding the Jewish Shakespeare: The Life and Legacy of Jacob Gordin*, 7:30 pm.

Rabbi & Mrs. Hayyim Yaakov & Yehudis Bulka Memorial Satellite Torah Study Program, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia, 9:00 pm.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

Ottawa Jewish War Veterans luncheon, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey, noon.
Soloway Jewish Community

Centre, Yiddish Theatre Troupe, *A Lek un a Shmek*, 2:00 pm.

Young Israel of Ottawa, Tribute dinner honouring Morris Kimmel, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey, 5:30 pm.

4th annual Israeli Film Festival, *Frozen Days*, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington, 7:00 pm.

Temple Israel, 17th Annual Dr. Imre Rosenberg Memorial Lecture with Dr. David Dewitt, professor of political science at York University, speaking about Israel and the Middle East, 1301 Prince of Wales, 7:30 pm.

MONDAY, JUNE 11

Shelley Posen's "Menorah: Songs from a Jewish Life," concert & Jewish CD launch, Library & Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, 7:30 pm.

OJHS Lecture, "The History of the Goldstein Family," guest speaker Adele Sidney, Agudath Israel, 1400 Coldrey, 7:30 pm.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

Jewish National Fund Annual General Meeting, 564 Hilsdale.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

Soloway Jewish Community Centre and Hillel Academy Annual Golf Tournament, Loch March, 11:00 am.

Rabbi & Mrs. Hayyim Yaakov & Yehudis Bulka Memorial Satellite Torah Study Program, Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia, 9:00 pm.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15 (and 16)

Kollei of Ottawa Community Shabbaton, 1762 Carling, 6:00 pm.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

Canadian Jewish Congress 28th Plenary Assembly, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 8:30 am.

SUCC Breakfast of Champions, 11:00 am.

SUCC "Build a Bear Workshop," Bayshore Shopping Centre, outside the store, 1:00 pm.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa Inc. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Brenda Schafer, calendar coordinator at 798-9818 ext. 265. We have voice mail. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public. You may fax to 798-9839 or email to bschafer@jccottawa.com.



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Sarah Rose Rubin,
Minneapolis (mother of Steven Rubin)

Pearl Wilner

May their memory be a blessing always.

The CONDOLENCE COLUMN
is offered as a public service to the community.

There is no charge.

For a listing in this column,
please call Bev Glube, 613-798-4696, ext. 274.

Voice mail is available.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

MAY 30 FOR JUNE 18

JULY 4 FOR JULY 23

AUGUST 1 FOR AUGUST 20

AUGUST 10 FOR SEPTEMBER 3 *

AUGUST 29 FOR SEPTEMBER 17

SEPTEMBER 10 FOR OCTOBER 1

OCTOBER 3 FOR OCTOBER 22

OCTOBER 17 FOR NOVEMBER 5

OCTOBER 31 FOR NOVEMBER 19

* Community-wide Issue (subject to change)